Jiu Jiu

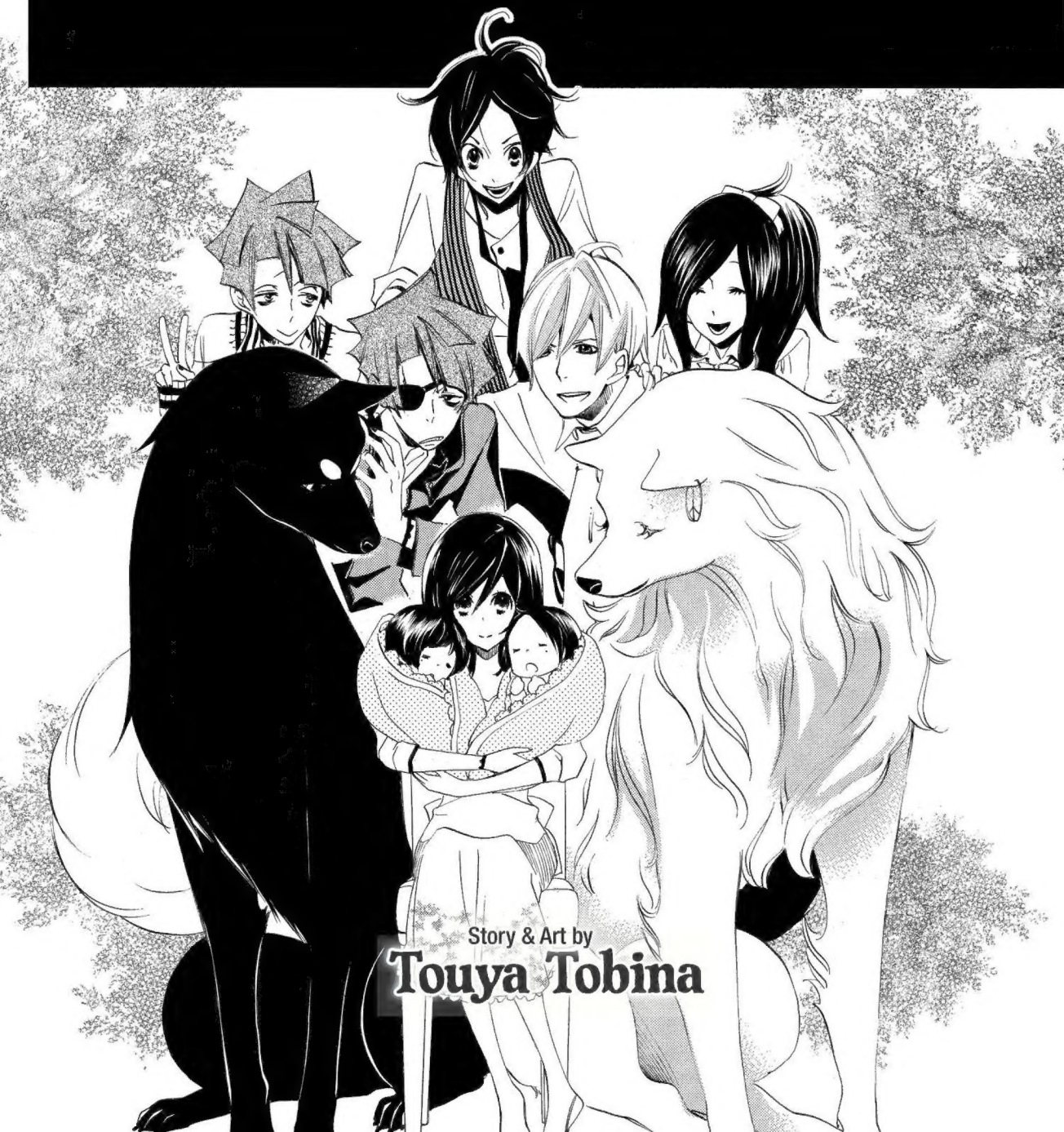
Story & Art by

Touya Tobina

5

Jiu Jiu

Vol. 5



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JIUJIU 5

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This story is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to any incidents or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

一獣従一 WALK 20: BLUNDER

A DAGGER ...?
WHAT DID KANKURO SAY?
SHUP
HUH ...?
HE WAS TALKING ABOUT THIS.
I'LL BE BLUNT WITH YOU.
IS TAKAYUKI ALIVE...?

THE ONLY PERSON WHO COULD HAVE PULLED OFF SOMETHING LIKE THIS...
...IS EITHER YOU OR THE HEAD OF THE HACHIOJI CLAN.
OH PLEASE ...
THIS IS MINE.
IF TAKAYUKI WERE ALIVE, I'D HAVE NO REASON TO HIDE IT FROM YOU.
...
HA HA!
IT'S NOT LIKE KANKURO CAN SAY, "I WANT TO KNOW BECAUSE I WANT TO KILL HIM"...
YOU OUGHT TO...
...QUIT SMOKING.

WE CAN'T DIE YET.
ME...
...AND THE HEAD OF THE WASHITAKE CLAN- YOU.
FUU
MY GRANDSON SAYS THE SAME THING.
"I WANT TO KEEP PLAYING WITH YOU...
"...SO QUIT SMOKING SO YOU'LL LIVE LONGER."
SOUNDS LIKE A NICE BOY TO ME.
DON'T BE STUPID. THIS IS THE ONLY HOBBY LEFT TO AN OLD MAN LIKE ME.
YOU'VE GOT A SECRET MEETING...
...AT THE SHIRATORI HOUSE AFTER THE FAMILY HEAD MEETING, DON'T YOU?
FUU
S
Z
Z
L
GOOD LUCK.
DING

FOR CRYING OUT LOUD... DON'T YOU REALIZE YOUR HENHOUSE...
...IS FULL OF FOXES?!
GRAMPS?!
GRA...!!
KLATTA
DID YOU SERIOUSLY THINK I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE A SPY?
...
WELL?
IS THAT WHAT YOU THOUGHT, HEAD OF THE WASHITAKE FAMILY?
KLTTA...
WHAT DID YOU-?
I JUST EXTER-MINATED A RAT.
THIS IS UNACCEPT-ABLE!
COM-PLETELY UNACCEPT-ABLE, KANKURO!
OOPS. I FORGOT.
I HAVE AN IMPORTANT GUEST COMING OVER.

I HAVE TO PREPARE FOR THE PARTY!
BRR
MR. SHUREN! WHERE WERE YOU ALL THIS TIME?!
BAM

Kanawaga Prefecture: Y-sama

Q: What dialect does Mika speak?

A: Mika dialect. And White speaks White dialect.

Q2: Where is Takamichi's mother?

A: I guess you could say I'm Takamichi's mother in a way...

Q3: Night is wearing earrings too, isn't he?

A: Oh! You're right!!

Q4: Volume 3, chapter 15. Re: The scene with Kankuro and Mika fighting. Takamichi was wearing shoes in the beginning, but she's barefoot later on. When did she take her shoes off?

A: Er... Well, I popped out of nowhere like *swish* and took her shoes off like *swish*... You know how that goes...

Tottori Prefecture: Tobunki-sama

Q1: Who is your favorite manga artist and what is your favorite manga?

A: I have lots.

Q2: Do you have any good manga artist friends?

A: I would never be able to get over it if they said, "I'm not friends with that Tobi-whatcha-macallit!" So it's a secret.

I'VE LOST CONTACT WITH THE OLD MAN AND...
?!
...
WHAT DID YOU KILL?!
MASTER ...!
WHAT HAP-PENED ?!
OH ... I DON'T THINK I CAN WEAR THIS ANYMORE.
Hey...
ARE LIVES JUST EXPENDABLE TO YOU...?!
MISTRESS TAKAMICHI WENT DOWN TO THE SHIRATORI HOUSE!

AND TAKE WASHITAKE'S PRECIOUS GRANDSON BACK TO HIS HOUSE.
!!
!
TAKE ME WITH Y...
OH.
MOON ...
HEAD OVER TO THE SHIRATORI HOUSE AS SOON AS YOU'RE READY.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, SHUREN?
I'M GOING AHEAD OF YOU.
TMP
TA-
TA-
DAH
TA-
THE HACHIOJI FAMILY IS GOING TO TAKE SEIJURO.
HERE'S THE BETROTHAL MONEY.

SHUREN ISN'T HERE YET?
I AM THE HEIR TO THE HACHIOJI FAMILY.
I HAVE SNOW AND NIGHT TO RELY ON. (THESE TWO.)
AS MY SISTER-IN-LAW, I WOULD LIKE YOU TO FULFILL YOUR WOMANLY DUTIES...
FEEL FREE TO RELY ON SEIJURO FOR ANYTHING YOU NEED.

HEY, WHO ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
GRIN
SNOW...
STOP IT!
...UPON A YOUNG, INNOCENT GIRL LIKE...
IRK...
BURDEN...?
BUT SHUREN IS A HARSH MAN...
BIG BROTH-ER...
...TO PLACE SUCH A BURDEN...
TWITCH

Q3: Why did you decide to become a manga artist?

A: So I could tell people I'm not just fooling around. I'm really not fooling around, you know? I draw manga for a living!! I'm such a serious professional!

Q4: Which one of your manga is your favorite?

A: I have regrets about all of my work, but usually when I look at it I think, "Wow, what is this? This is great!"

Q5: How old are you?

A: I'm 32 years old this year and... Hey, come back here!

Q6: Are you doing well?

A: I'm doing really well... Really... I am...

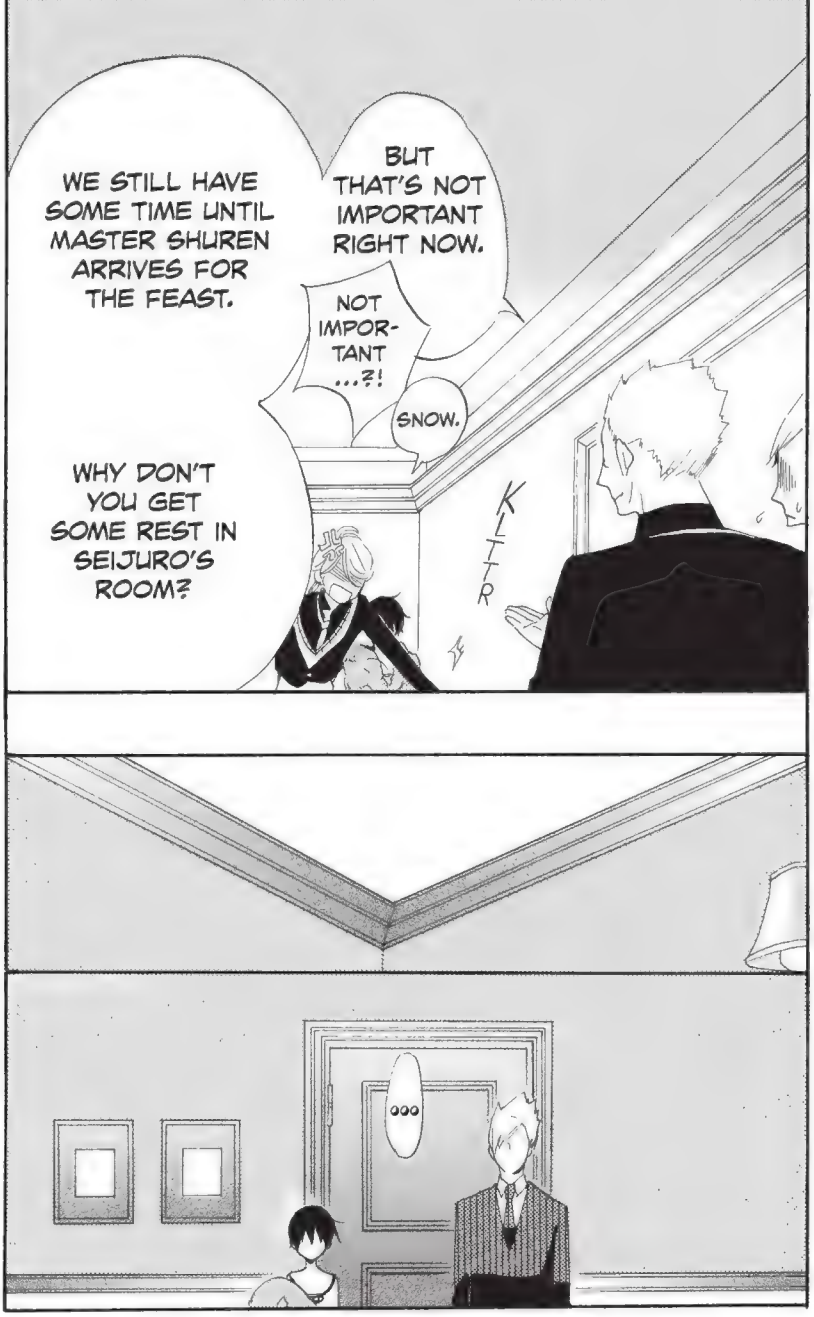
Q7: I love you!

A: ?! Th-Thanks... But my love for you is a million times greater!!

Iwate Prefecture: Shimo-sama

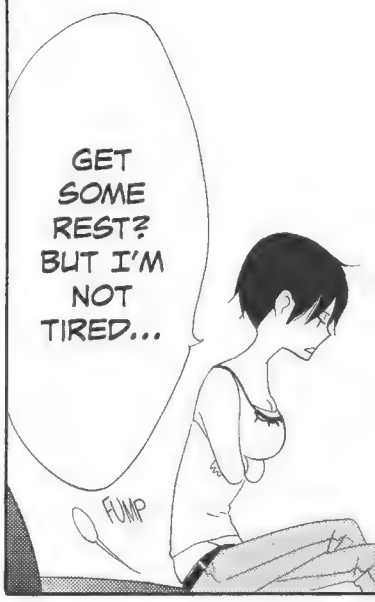
Q: What do you like, Tobina?

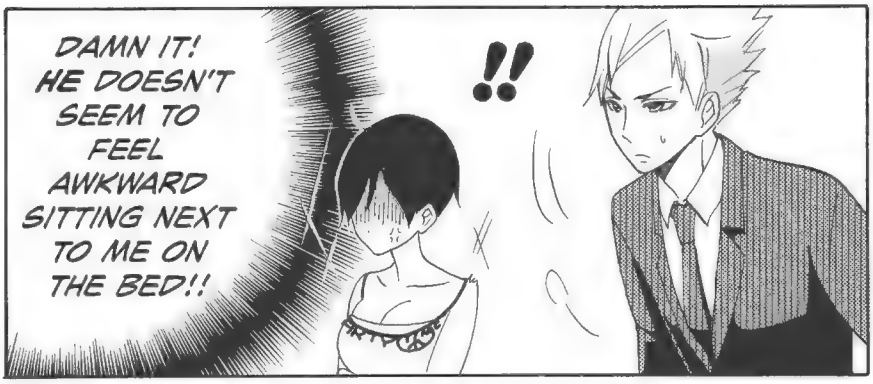
A: Well, I... I like my fans... Oh, come on. Don't make me say it!

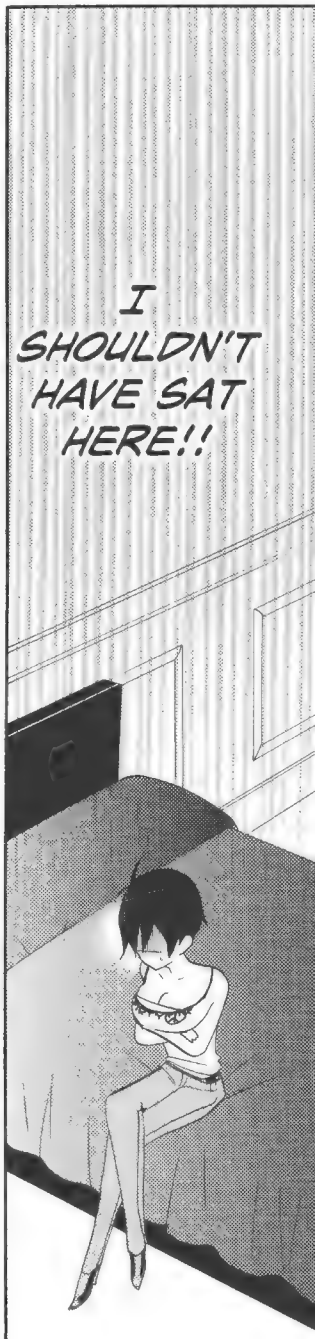

WE STILL HAVE SOME TIME UNTIL MASTER SHUREN ARRIVES FOR THE FEAST.
BUT THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW.
NOT IMPOR-TANT ...?!
SNOW.
WHY DON'T YOU GET SOME REST IN SEIJURO'S ROOM?
KLTR

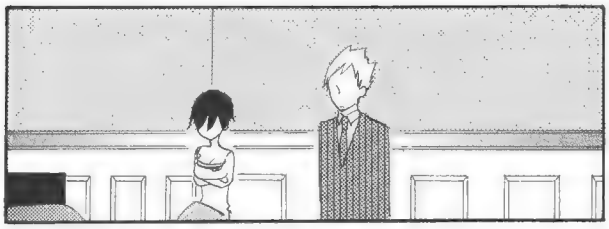
All alone...
...
I'M WORRIED ABOUT NIGHT AND SNOW...
OH, THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE SNOW AND NIGHT—YOU TWO—TO HELP ME WITH. WOULD YOU MIND STAYING BEHIND...?
PAT
PAT

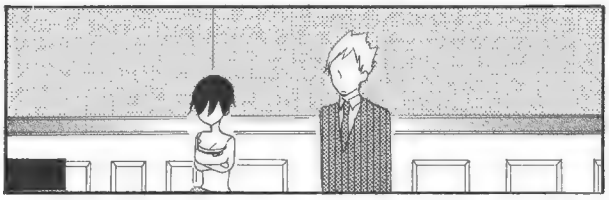
Oh?
I VOWED TO MYSELF THAT I WOULDN'T LAY A FINGER ON YOU UNTIL THE BETROTHAL GIFTS WERE EXCHANGED.
IS THAT WHAT HE MEANT BY "GET SOME REST"?! WHAT A HORNY...
COME TO THINK OF IT, DIDN'T SEIJURO SAY WE WERE GOING TO GO AT IT AS SOON AS...?
I THINK HE...

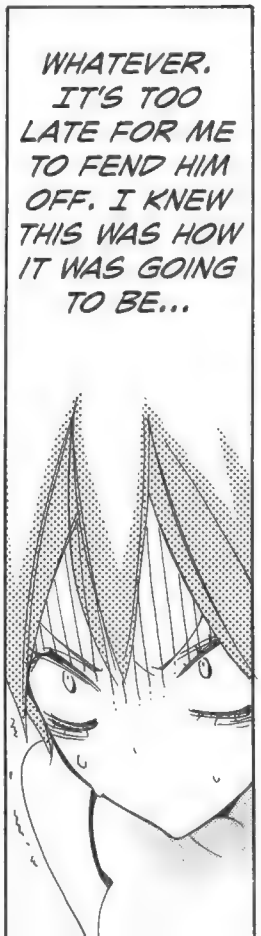

GET SOME REST? BUT I'M NOT TIRED...
FLUMP


DAMN IT! HE DOESN'T SEEM TO FEEL AWKWARD SITTING NEXT TO ME ON THE BED!!
!!


I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAT HERE!!





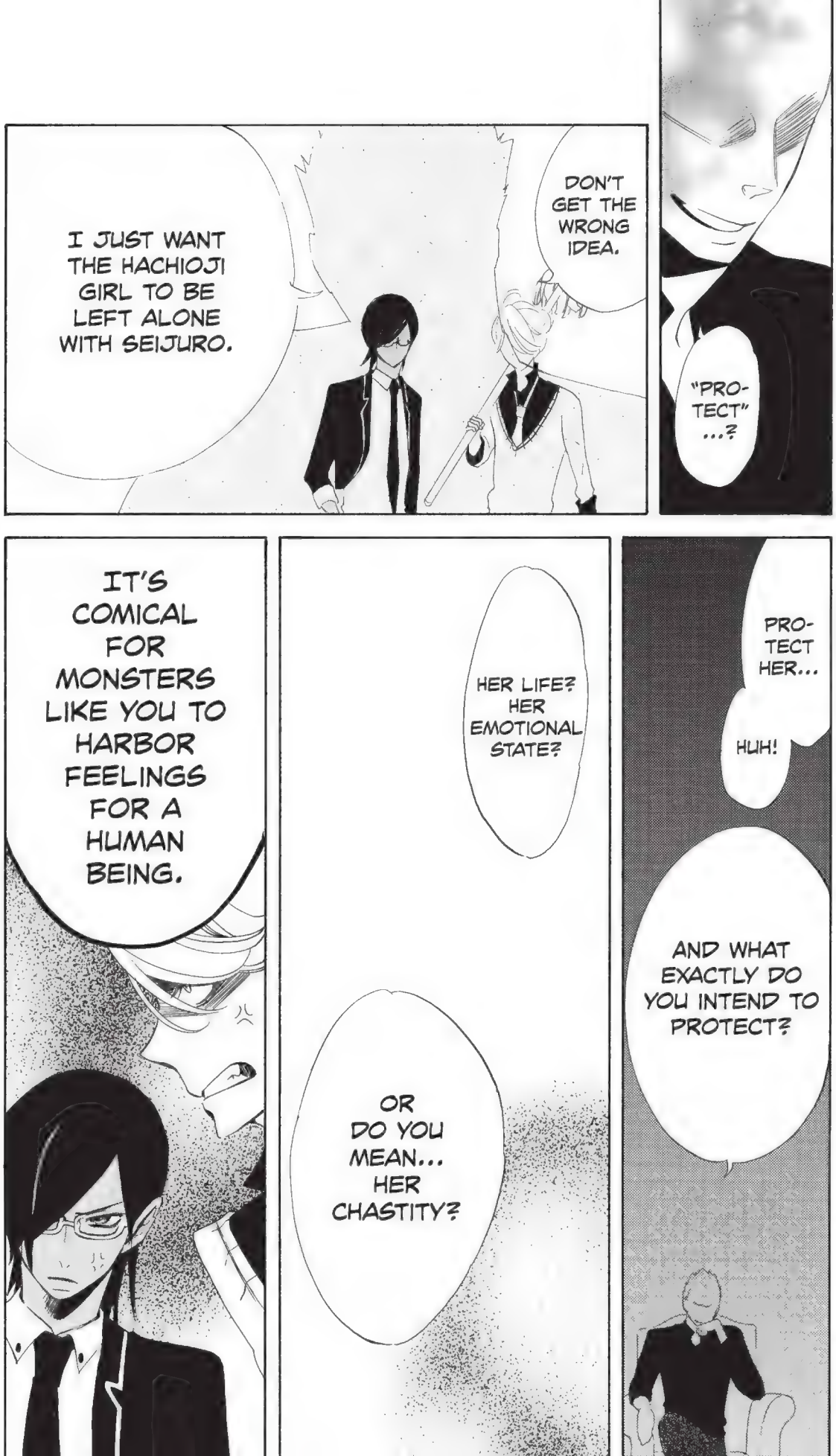

WHATEVER. IT'S TOO LATE FOR ME TO FEND HIM OFF. I KNEW THIS WAS HOW IT WAS GOING TO BE...

Hmph. If this were Mika, I bet he would have gotten this over and done with no matter how I felt about it!!
SHOULD I UNDRESS?!
DO I HAVE TO UNDRESS?! NOW?!
I HAVE TO GET READY!!
?

I'M A BIT WORRIED ABOUT THOSE TWO. I'M GOING TO GO DOWN AND CHECK ON THEM.
WHAT ?!
OH... RIGHT! SURE!!
I FEEL ALL THIS PRESSURE ...
BUT THEN AGAIN... I WOULDN'T LIKE THAT EITHER!
Damn it!!
AAAAAH...
FWOP
THE HECK WITH IT...
IT'S NOT LIKE IT MATTERS...
...WHETHER I LIKE HIM OR NOT.
HEY!
SHLUP

YOU'RE JUST A COUPLE OF GUARD DOGS ASSIGNED TO...
...THAT INEPT GIRL.
YOU'RE NO DIFFERENT FROM THEM.
HUH?
WHY DON'T YOU GET YOUR SERVANTS TO DO THIS FOR YOU?!
You have servants, right?!
GRUMP GRUMP
IRK
YOU'RE CHILDISH AND EMOTIONAL— JUST LIKE YOUR MISTRESS.
YOU'RE NOTHING BUT MONGRELS. AND THAT MAKES YOU LOWER THAN SERVANTS.
SHWTT
DAMN YOU! HOW DARE YOU...!

JUST KIDDING!
☆
YOU WANT TO GET RID OF US JIU JIU, DON'T YOU?
I'M BET-TING ...
...THE HEAD OF THE SHIRATORI CLAN WILL TRY TO PROVOKE YOU TWO.
PRETEND TO FALL FOR IT. THAT WILL KNOCK THE WIND OUT OF HIS SAILS.
SO WE'LL NEVER FALL FOR YOUR TRICKS!
WE WANT TO PROTECT TAKAMICHI!


I JUST WANT THE HACHIOJI GIRL TO BE LEFT ALONE WITH SEIJURO.
DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA.
"PRO-TECT" ...?
PRO-TECT HER...
HUH!
AND WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU INTEND TO PROTECT?
HER LIFE? HER EMOTIONAL STATE?
OR DO YOU MEAN... HER CHASTITY?
IT'S COMICAL FOR MONSTERS LIKE YOU TO HARBOR FEELINGS FOR A HUMAN BEING.

AH, YOU'RE STILL HOLDING YOURSELVES BACK! HOW NOBLE OF YOU!
TOO BAD... HAMANASU- MY LITTLE SISTER- IS BEING MURDERED BY A MIXED BLOOD THIS VERY MINUTE!
YOUR KIND WILL SURELY BE DISPOSED OF AFTER THAT COMES TO LIGHT- ONCE AND FOR ALL!
HEH ...
... JIU JIU!
BY SOME OF YOU SO-CALLED...

HEH HEH HEH...
AND THEN THAT SLY HACHIOJI FOX WHO INTRODUCED THE JIU JIU SYSTEM WILL BE DETHRONED!
THE NEKOZANE BRAT IS ALREADY DEAD!
AND I SHALL FINALLY BECOME THE NEW LEADER OF THE HUNTERS!
MASTER KANKURO...!
MISTRESS HAMANASU IS BACK...!
!
...IS THAT SO?
HOW... IS SHE?!
DID SHE MEET MIKA...?
HEH HEH...

BIG BROTHER ...!
HAMANASU?!
?!
RIPPLE IS...
?!
!
SEIJURO ...
!
WELL... I SEEM TO HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP IN THE CAR...
WHAT HAPPENED, HAMANASU ...?!

HELP ME! RIPPLE'S WOUNDS NEED TO BE TREATED RIGHT AWAY!
GO BACK TO YOUR ROOM ...
...HAMA-NASU.
WHEN I WOKE UP, THERE WAS SOME KIND OF TROUBLE AT THE NEKOZANE HOUSE!
MIKA WAS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND... I DON'T UNDERSTAND! WHAT'S GOING ON...?
INFIRMARY
AS FOR RIPPLE...
IT APPEARS SOMEBODY HAS ALREADY SEEN TO HER INJURIES.
...!
GRIT
THE ODD-JOB TEAM MUST BE BEHIND THIS!!
!

DAMN IT! WHERE IS YAGYU?!
HAVE YOU SEEN THE SCAR ON THAT STUPID GIRL'S BACK?
COULD IT BE THAT MISTRESS TAKAMICHI HAS ALSO...
VRM
BAMM
SNOW!
NIGHT!
KLATTA

WHAT'S WRONG? WAS THE SHIRATORI FAMILY HEAD MEAN TO YOU?
PAT
PAT
BUT WE LEARNED OF SOMETHING TERRIBLY DISTURBING...
WE WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONTROL OURSELVES IF IT WERE JUST THAT!
SNOW!
WILL YOU GET OFF OF HER!!
BAM

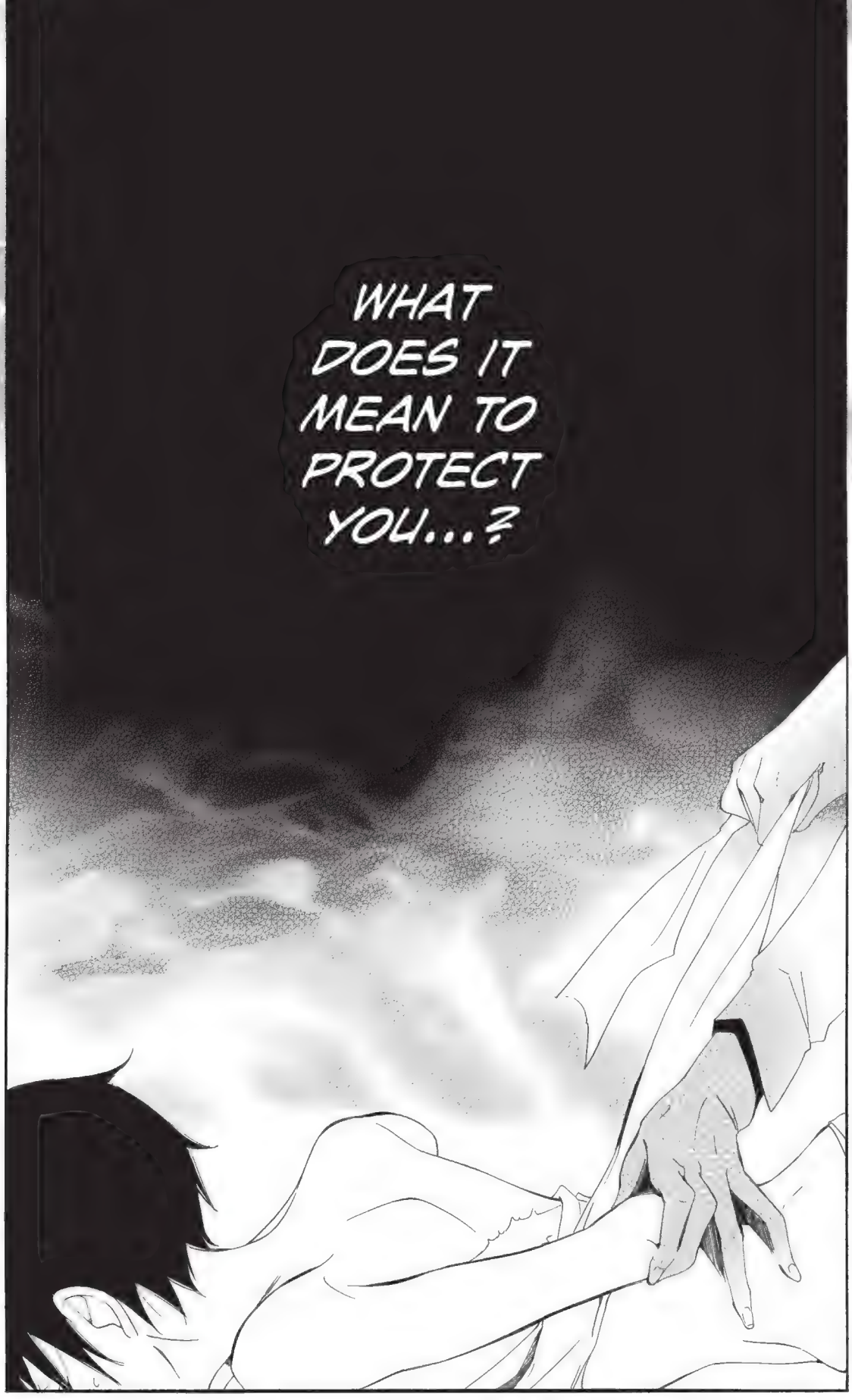
OH...
NIGHT ...
SNOW ...
I WANT YOU TO LEAVE THE ROOM FOR A WHILE.

HEY!
SEIJURO!
SAY IT.
ORDER ME TO RUN AWAY WITH YOU...
NIGHT ...!
GO OUT-SIDE ...
SOME-WHERE FAR AWAY!
AS FAR AS POSSIBLE ...!
SNOW!
SAY IT.
HURRY!
!

NO!
SNOW!
SNOW ...!
WE HAVE TO PROTECT HER...!!
AFTER ALL, MISTRESS TAKAMICHI...
AFTER ALL...

HEY...

...TAKAMICHI.


WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO PROTECT YOU...?

IT'S THE SAME AS RIPPLE ...!!
MISTRESS TAKAMICHI ...

I'M SOR- RY ... !!
I...
I'M FINE ...!
I'M FINE... YOU CAN KEEP GOING.
I'M REALLY SORRY!
IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK!

INFIRMARY
... WH- WHERE AM I?
I... ... DON'T KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF THIS ...
BIG BROTH- ER!
BIG BROTH- ER!
RIPPLE ...
SOME- BODY... ...HAS TAMPERED WITH RIPPLE'S MEMORY...
A HUMAN ...?!
?! WHO ARE YOU?!
RIPPLE ...

NO!!
DON'T KILL ME!
PLEASE DON'T KILL ME!!
...
I HAD A HUNCH... SO I CHECKED YOU TOO ...
AS I SUSPECTED, YOU HAVE THE SAME WOUND AS THE ONE I SAW ON RIPPLE, MISTRESS TAKAMICHI ...
MEMORY MANIPULATION...
THE SAME WOUND... AS RIPPLE?
...
I'M SURE YOU ARE AWARE OF THE FACT THAT YAGYU, HEBIZUKA AND SUKETORA ARE IN CHARGE OF ODD JOBS— SUCH AS MANIPULATING THE MEMORIES OF ORDINARY CIVILIANS WHO ACCIDENTALLY WITNESS OUR WORK.
...

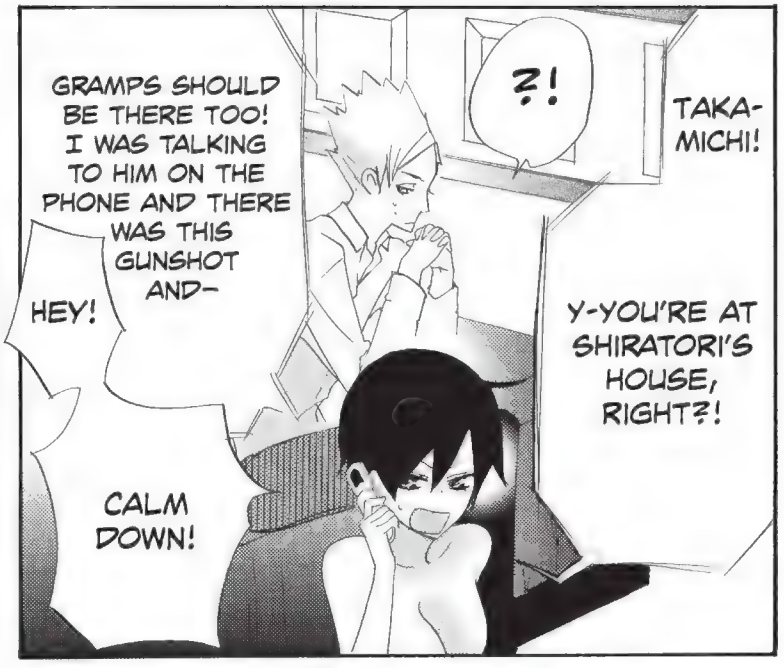
THAT MANIPULATION MUST BE PERFORMED...
...WHILE THE PERSON IS IN A STATE OF SHOCK.
FOR THOSE WHO ARE NOT ALREADY IN A STATE OF SHOCK...
...THE TEAM TRAUMATIZES THEM PHYSICALLY... SO THAT THEY THEN CAN TAMPER WITH THEIR MEMORY.

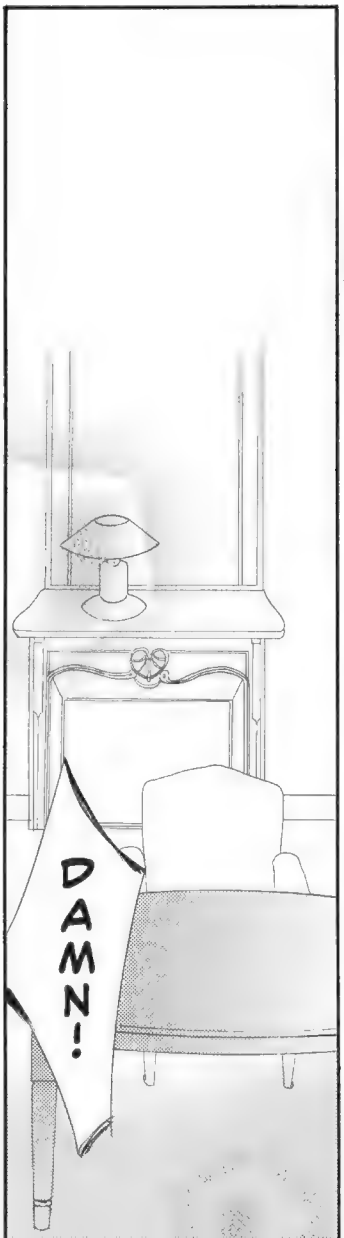
WHAT MEMORY OF MINE...
...DID THEY MANIPULATE?
...
PROBABLY YOUR MEMORY OF MASTER TAKA-
What ?!

NOW... HOW CAN I PERSUADE HER TO PUT SOMETHING ON...?
WHO IS IT?!

HEY! WHY THE HELL DID YOU DO THIS IN FRONT OF SNOW AND NIGHT?!
VRRB
M...
M-MISTRESS TAKAMICHI... YOU HAVE A PHONE CALL!
I'm sorry...
THOK
KRESH
VRRB

FINALLY! YOU PICKED UP!


?!
TAKA-MICHI!
Y-YOU'RE AT SHIRATORI'S HOUSE, RIGHT?!
GRAMPS SHOULD BE THERE TOO! I WAS TALKING TO HIM ON THE PHONE AND THERE WAS THIS GUNSHOT AND-
HEY!
CALM DOWN!


DAMN!

THE OLD MAN MIGHT STILL BE ALIVE.

IS THIS YOU, WASHI-TAKE?
PLEASE!
PLEASE ...

DAMN!
DAMN!!
WHUD
I WAS SO CLOSE... SO CLOSE TO HAVING EVERYTHING MY WAY!!
WHY IS EVERYBODY AROUND ME SO USELESS?!
CAN YOU THINK OF A PLACE IN THIS HOUSE... A PLACE WHERE... YOU COULD ISOLATE A DYING PERSON?
DYING ...
MAYBE THE DUNGEON...
SHE...

I PITY MY ELDER BROTHER. HE'S BEEN THROUGH A LOT HIMSELF.
DON'T YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH YOUR BIG BROTHER BEING A PSYCHOPATH ...?!
...
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, SEIJURO?
PITY... ME?
HEY ...

UNNGH
WHY DID I BOTHER WITH...
...SUCH ROUND-ABOUT METHODS?

I SHOULD HAVE SIMPLY SLAUGH-TERED EVERY-ONE...
...AND BLAMED IT ON THOSE DOGS.

LET'S GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME...
HUF HUF
SEIJU-RO!
!
URGH
SNOW ?!
NI...
!!
I HAVE TO STOP YOUR BLEEDING ...
RUN ... FOR IT...
TUP TUP
SPRT SPRT

GO...
AHH...
HE'S HUGE!
I'LL KILL YOU ALL!!
THAT'S NOT SNOW... OR NIGHT!!
...MOON.

SHTTR

KILLING

WHO IS IT?!

WHO IS IT ...

IT'S NOT FATHER!

WHO IS IT?

THE HACHIOJI CREST...!

SHF

WHO IS IT...?

LONG TIME NO SEE.
HIYA, MICHI.♪
GR
IN

YUKI...

WALK 21: MONSTER

YEAH ...
WHAT IS MARRIED?
TELL US, MISTRESS TAKAMICHI!
SNOW!
M-Mistress Takamichi...
SO... WHAT IS THIS MARRIED THING?
BUT, BUT... NIGHT ASKED ME WHAT "RABID" MEANT!!
HE SAID "MARRIED"!!
WHAT KIND OF STUPID GAG IS THAT, ANYWAY...?!
IT'S ... UM ...
IT MEANS TO LIVE TOGETHER WITH SOMEONE FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.

I ALWAYS THOUGHT I WOULD BE THE ONE TO MARRY MISTRESS TAKAMICHI.

WALK 21: MONSTER

TAKAMICHI ASKED ME TO DO THIS FOR HER...
I TRIED REALLY HARD!
SO I HELD BACK.
BUT I WAS WRONG ...
THE PRINCE OF THIS STORY...
... WILL ...
BUT SHE...
AWOO
SHE KEEPS MOVING FARTHER AWAY FROM ME!!
I BELIEVED HER! THAT SHE WANTED TO STAY WITH US FOREVER!!
...
... NEVER BE ME.

THIS MEANS...
...I'M GOING TO LIVE *IN* ***AGONY*** FOREVER!!
I ALWAYS CATCH ON JUST AFTER YOU...
I WOULD HAVE BEEN HAPPIER ...

...IF I'D BEEN BORN AN ORDINARY DOG!!

BUT I KNOW...

...I'M JUST A...
MONSTER ...

...
WHAT...
...ARE YOU DOING HERE...

...
YUKI?
...
"YUKI"?
DID YOU SAY ...
WELL...
WHAT DO YOU *THINK* I'M DOING HERE?
MEMORY MANIPULATION...

YOU WERE PLANNING TO KILL ME AFTER GETTING RID OF OUR FATHER, WEREN'T YOU?!
AND YOU...
...
I FIGURED YOU'D USE SEIJURO...
...TO TAKE OVER THE HACHIOJI FAMILY IF I DISAPPEARED.
YOU KNOW THAT...
AND YOU STILL HAVE THE NERVE TO SHOW YOURSELF IN FRONT OF ME?!
BA
M
I'M YOUR MASTER, MICHI
AND A MASTER EDS ONE RYE SUIT
AND NIGHT.
WHAT'S SO FUNNY, HEBITSUKA?
NOTHING.
MUCH TIME HAS PASSED SINCE I HEARD SO-CALLED UPON MY GRANDCHILDREN, I'VE NEVER SEEN MY WIFE SO AT EASE.
DAD COULD BE IN DANGER TOO! THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING.
FAINT YUKI ...?
NOT...
WHAT?
ANOTHER FUNERAL..?
THIS MUST BE A CURSE!
BACK THEN, DID YUKI...
THE ONE WHO ENDED MEI'S LIFE.
YOU KILLED MEIFUKU!
IT WAS YOU, WASN'T IT, KAMIURA?!
I'M SORRY.
THAT'S AROUND THE TIME YOUNG MASTER TAKAFUMI DIED, ISN'T IT?

BAM
BAM
KLTTR
KL NK
I'M...
... PRETTY TOUGH, YOU KNOW.

I HAD A HUNCH YOU'D PANIC AND GIVE YOURSELF AWAY...
...IF I GAVE YOU A HINT THAT I WAS ALIVE AND KICKING.
...
BUT I FEEL BAD FOR WASHITAKE AND THE OTHERS...
I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D HARM THEM TOO.
WHIP

OOPS...
THAT WAS CLOSE.
WHOA!
WAIT ... STOP IT.
...MICHI.
HEY!
...

Kochi Prefecture: Karen-sama

Q: What foods do the Jiu Jiu characters like and dislike?

I'm going to write up the answer all in one go.

Takamichi eats anything. But she gets tired of eating after just one bite.

I'm not interested in food.

Meat. Meat... Meat!

I don't eat leaves!

Because they're not food!

I'm a vegetarian! But I like meat too.

[With a straight face.]

He eats anything, but he usually doesn't finish his plate.

I don't need food. Just bring me liquor.

I only eat livestock.

It's not like I enjoy eating snakes and frogs. (LOL) I'm not that kind of person. (LOL)

To be continued...

I THOUGHT FAKING MY DEATH WOULD BE MORE REALISTIC IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW.
DAMN YOU!
WHERE WERE YOU? WHAT WERE YOU DOING ALL THIS TIME?!
Michi
...!
IS THAT REALLY A PRIORITY RIGHT NOW?!
Yuki
WHAT... WAS...
...ALL OF IT FOR THEN?
BUT YOU USED THAT TIME...
...TO FIND IT, RIGHT?

TO FIND SOMETHING... IMPORTANT... THAT GAVE NEW MEANING TO YOUR LIFE.
...
THAT'S NOT FAIR! DON'T BRING THEM INTO THIS!
THE ONLY REASON I'M HERE...
...IS BECAUSE OF YOU, MICHI.
TMP...

I WANTED ...
... TO SEE YOU SO BADLY!
YUKI!!
K L K...
BY THE WAY...
YOU STILL LOVE ME, DON'T YOU...? A LOT?

YOU CAN CONTINUE YOUR CONVERSATION ON THE OTHER SIDE.
What are you wearing, by the way?!
IT'S TIME WE STOPPED TALKING.
...
RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
MMBL

NO!

IS IT THAT BIG JIU JIU I SAW JUST NOW?!

A... PAW ?!

?!

KRESH

RMBL
RMBL
RMBL
RMBL
WE BETTER GET OUT OF HERE...

RMBL
RMBL
RMBL

RMBL
RMBL
RMBL
ADMIT IT. YOU WERE THRILLED TO SEE ME A SECOND AGO.
SHUT IT!!

TMP
TMP
...
I'LL KILL YOU LATER !!
TMP

THIS IS YOUR DOG, MICHI!!

I eat anything.... except alcohol and shitake mushrooms. (Yuck.)
Why are you shoving me out the...
Huh...?! I was just answering the question!
Hey!!!
Um... I just eat to sustain myself. So... anything that fuels my energy, I guess!
Personally, I don't find eating all that interesting. I actually don't give it much thought.
End of March, 2012... Or maybe it was April... I got a new dog!
Hello!
A mixed breed- part teacup poodle, part Chihuahua.

TA-
TUMP.
THAT'S MOON. HE'S A HANDSOME FELLA, ISN'T HE?
!
IT IS THE JIU JIU WE JUST SAW! THE ONE WITH SEIJURO.

RR
M M
B BL

THIS IS...
R
M
B
OOPS. I WAS TOLD TO CAPTURE HIM ALIVE.

O
W
O
O
SNOW...?!
O
O
H
O
O
O
FULL FENRIR SIZE SURE IS SOMETHING!
WOW ...

KR
EK
HEY! CUT IT OUT, SNOW!
Don't eat trees! Bad dog!
CAN YOU GROW THAT BIG TOO, MOON?
BE WARY ...
...OF HIM.
YOU HAVE TO TURN BACK!!
KRUSH
SNO...

HE... ATTACKED ME?!
IT MUST HAVE BEEN BY ACCI-DENT ...
...
LOOK OUT BEHIND YOU!
MI-CHI!
WHY DID YOU-?
DAMN IT!

!
KR
ESH
AIEE!
NGH!
MICHI!
AHH
UNH
AH

UNN
YOU BROKE A RIB?
BUT IF THAT OTHER DOG HADN'T PROTECTED YOU...
...YOU WOULD HAVE BROKEN MORE THAN JUST A RIB...
HUF
HUFF
HUF
HUF
...
NIGHT...

WOOO
...ATTACK NIGHT TOO?!
DID SNOW...
HUF
...MICHI?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT HIM...
I'M SCARED...
SLLLLK
HUF
I'M... SCARED.
TRMBL
HUF
TRMBL
TRMBL

!
NIGHT...
I'M SORRY...
I TRIED... TO STOP HIM...
...
WHAT'S THAT?
POISON.
Um, actually... deadly poison.
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO SLAY HIM IF I CAN HIT HIS WEAK SPOT.
...
MIS-TRESS...
...TAKA-MICHI...
IF YOU CAN'T STOP HIM...
...I WILL.

SNOW ...
... SAID ...
...HE'S BEEN HOLDING BACK ALL THIS TIME...
...EVER SINCE YOU SWORE THE THREE OF US WOULD BE TOGETHER FOREVER.
BUT HE SAID IT HURT HIM...
...AND THAT HE'D BE HAPPIER IF HE WERE JUST AN ORDINARY DOG...
HUF HUF ...
THAT PROMISE I MADE... WAS HURTING SNOW...?

I'M A TOTAL...
...FAILURE!
I'VE NEVER BEEN THE EQUAL OF SNOW...
...AND I COULDN'T EVEN PROTECT YOU PROPERLY NOW.
H
F

H
F
THAT'S ENOUGH.
STOP TALKING.
...
NIGHT ...
...

YUKI ...
H
O
W
L

CAN YOU HELP ME GET UP TO THAT IDIOT'S SNOUT?
KRESH

NOW YOU'RE TALKING!

HUF
NO.
KOFF

TMP
TMP
TMP
WE'LL CLOSE IN ON HIM FROM BEHIND.
YOU NEED TO RUN UP ONTO HIS BACK AS QUICKLY AS YOU CAN.
HE WON'T BE ABLE TO REACH YOU ON THE SCRUFF OF HIS NECK.

DON'T WORRY, MICHI.

ONE BLOW FROM HIM— AND YOU'RE *DEAD*.
BE CAREFUL!
...

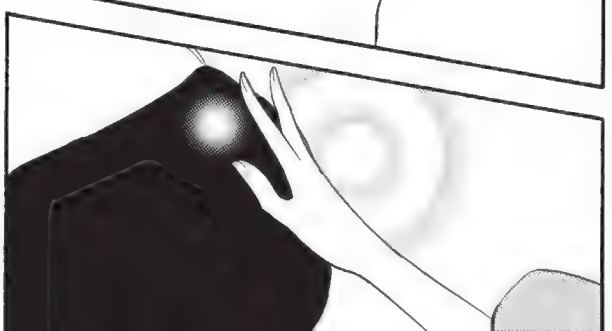
TRMBL
...

HA HA.
VERY FUNNY.
YOUR INVINCIBLE BROTHER IS WITH YOU!
AWWOOOO
WE'LL DO A FRONTAL CHARGE!
JUST GET ME UP TO HIS SNOUT.

NIGHT ...
YOU'RE A GREAT GUY, NIGHT.
NIGHT ...
TAKE CARE OF NIGHT FOR ME, OKAY...?

I HURT YOUR FEELINGS SO BADLY... AGAIN.
SNOW ...
I'M SORRY.
BUT... I STILL...

COME BACK TO ME.



...WANT TO BE WITH YOU TWO FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE!

I DON'T CARE IF YOU DON'T LIKE ME ANYMORE...
...OR EVEN IF YOU HATE ME...
COME BACK TO ME!
...OR THAT YOU'RE A MONSTER.

I'LL NEVER REGRET KNOWING YOU TWO.

WALK 22: IT'S ALL A LIE

WE'RE CLOSE ENOUGH TO FEEL HER WARMTH, HER SCENT... EVERYTHING
...
THAT'S HOW CLOSE WE ARE.

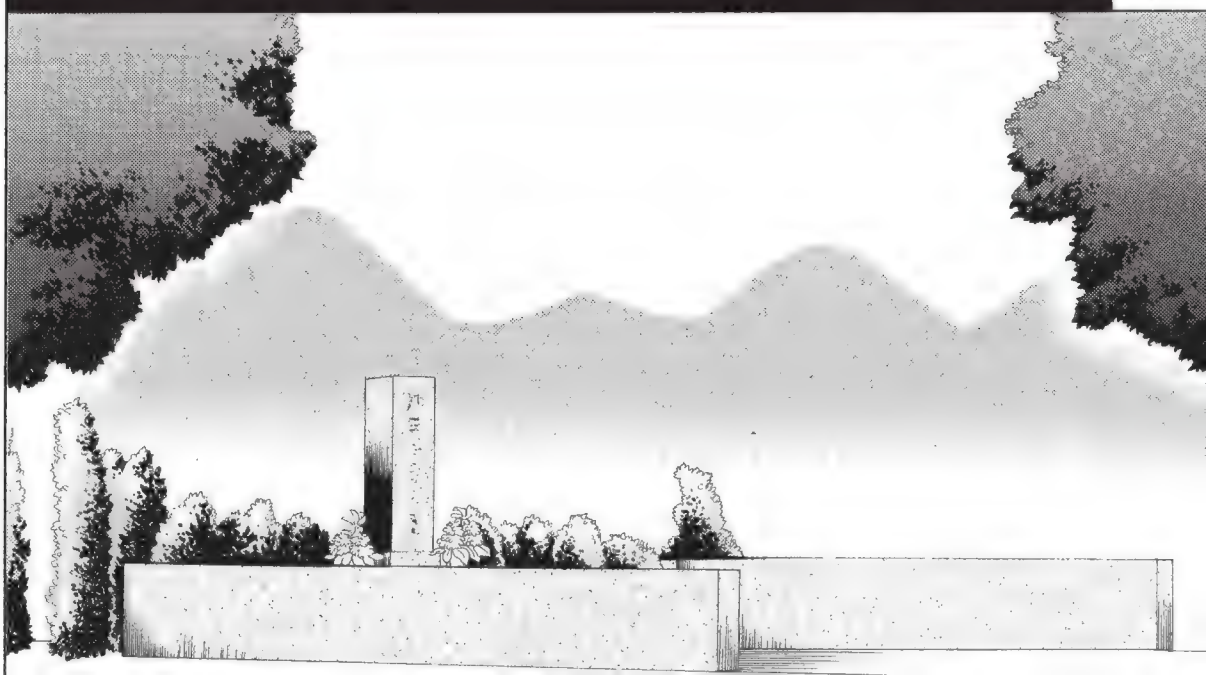
WE'RE SO CLOSE TO HER, YET...
...SO FAR AWAY.
I WILL DESTROY IT..
I WANT TO DESTROY IT.
HOWWWL! WHAT A CRUEL WORLD THIS IS!

A SCENT I LOVE...
AN AGONIZ-INGLY SAD...
THERE IT IS AGAIN.
THAT VERY CLOSE...
YET HAPPY SCENT.
YET DISTANT SCENT.
A SCENT SO DEAR TO ME.

TAKAMICHI
...

I'M SORRY.

I'M SORRY
I FELL IN LOVE
WITH YOU.



FW
OP
HACHIOJI FAMILY
八王子家
CHIOJI FAMILY
王子家
I'M RIGHT HERE...
...YOU IDIOT.

THAT'S A WEIRD HAIRDO.
BUT I GUESS YOU'VE ALWAYS HAD A WEIRD HAIRDO.
MISTRESS TAKAMICHI...
YOU CAME TOO, MIKA!

IT'S THE ANNIVERSARY OF YUKI'S DEATH TODAY.
TACHIOJI FAMILY
...
WHITE...
IT'S BEEN— WHAT?— FIVE MONTHS SINCE I LAST SAW YOU?
!
LONG TIME NO SEE, MISTRESS TAKAMICHI...
I'M SORRY ABOUT... WHAT HAPPENED...

YOU'VE REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS.

GENERAL HOSPITAL
IS THIS... HELL?
IT'S THE HOSPITAL.
IF THIS IS HELL, WHAT WOULD THAT MAKE ME...? A WHITE OGRE? INSTEAD OF A RED OR BLUE ONE? WHAT KIND OF AN OGRE IS WHITE?!
SNOW ...
NIGHT ...
FW
SH
OH. IT'S YOU, MOON. YOU LOOK... DIFFERENT SOMEHOW. I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU.
YOU'RE RIGHT. I LOOK VERY DIFFERENT. TAKE A CLOSER LOOK.
Are you joking?
!!

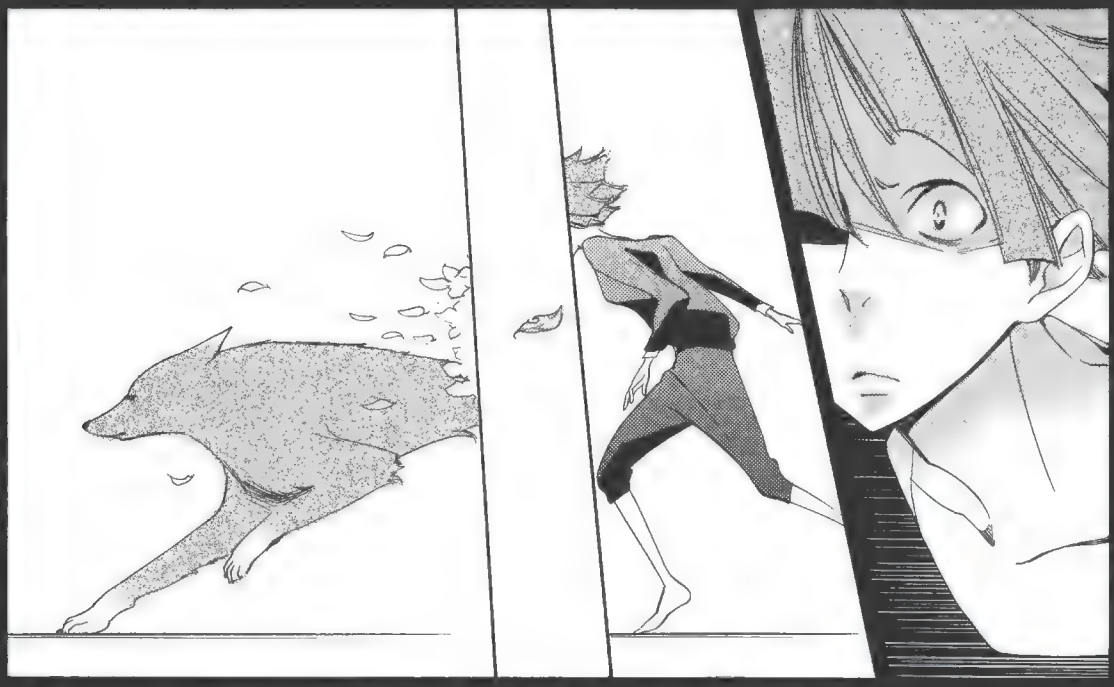
...
...
DON'T MOVE TOO MUCH YET...
...MISTRESS TAKAMICHI.
...
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
YUKI...

I'M SORRY ...
... MISTRESS TAKAMICHI.
SHF
IT'S ME- WHITE.
O O O
WHY ARE YOU DISGUISED AS YUKI, WHITE?!
SINCE... WHEN?
FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.

...WHEN MIKA WENT TO YOUR HOME...
THAT DAY...
... MASTER MIKA.
EXCUSE ME...
TW
TCH
NOK NOK
MS. CROW?
WHAT DO YOU WANT...
I'M NOT HERE TO PLAY AROUND, WHITE!
WHERE IS THE HEAD OF THE NEKOZANE FAMILY— YOUR MASTER?!

THE HEAD OF THE SHIRA-TORI FAMILY ...
...IS AFTER YOUR LIFE!
T
MP
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
KLAT
MASTER MIKA!
!
TA

I'M SURE I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT BECAUSE IT'S MIKA, BUT...
?
A bird?
MASTER MIKA JUST...
... TURNED INTO A BIRD...?
...MIKA'S HARLEY?!
HEY! THAT'S ...
TMP

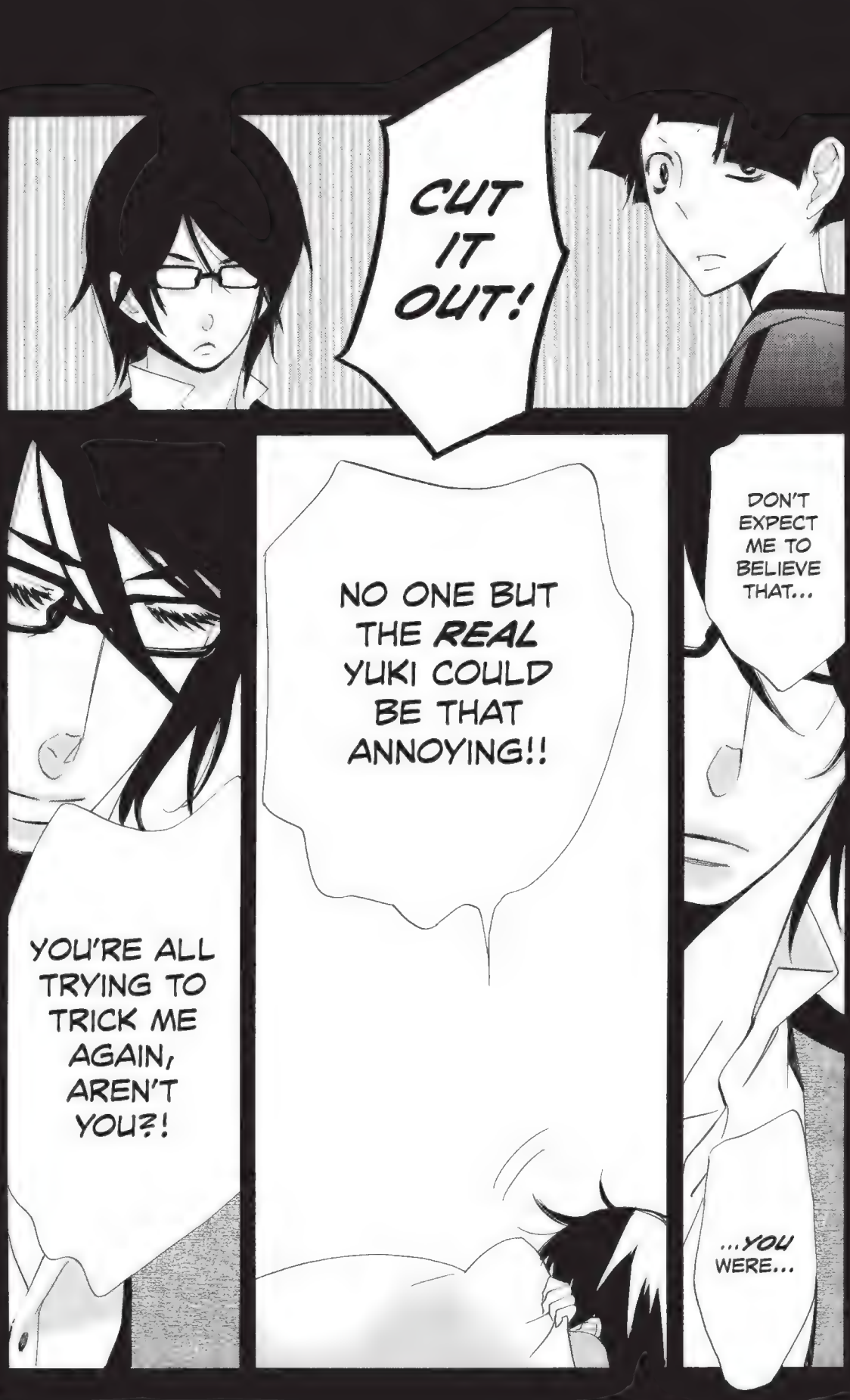


BUT...

SSSSHH...
MIKA!!
No...
MIKA!
NO!

GENERAL HOSPITAL
AND SO...
DON'T CRY. YOUR MASTER IS ALIVE.
AND I NEED YOU TO DO ME A BIG FAVOR...
!
SO I ASKED WHITE TO HELP ME DECEIVE THE SHIRATORI FAMILY HEAD.
HE'D FOUND OUT THAT I COULD TRANSFORM INTO OTHER THINGS...
I even dyed my hair.
I used old photographs as a reference for my transformation.
OH...
FATHER ...
OH! SHUREN... HACHIOJI FAMILY HEAD. HELLO.

BUT IT'S TOO LATE TO TRANSFORM BACK NOW.
IT WAS A BIT EARLY TO REVEAL YOUR TRUE IDENTITY, WHITE.
I'M SORRY IT TOOK ME SO LONG.
UM... MAY I GO AND WATCH OVER MIKA?
WE WERE DISCUSSING HOW TO DEAL WITH THE FAMILY HEAD OF THE SHIRATORI CLAN.
IT TOOK A LOT LONGER THAN I EXPECTED.
...
SURE.
That's a surprise.
YOU MEAN... HE'S STILL ALIVE?
HE KILLED SOMEONE. SO WE'VE TAKEN HIM INTO CUSTODY.
Tough as a cockroach.
WE CAPTURED HIM AS HE ESCAPED THROUGH ANOTHER PASSAGE.
THANK YOU FOR EVERY-THING.
...
IT WAS NOTH-ING.


CUT IT OUT!
DON'T EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT...
NO ONE BUT THE REAL YUKI COULD BE THAT ANNOYING!!
YOU'RE ALL TRYING TO TRICK ME AGAIN, AREN'T YOU?!
...YOU WERE...

"FATHER?
BUT...
TAKAYUKI ISN'T HERE.
"IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO ME...
"...TRICK SHIRATORI... MAKE IT SEEM LIKE I'M STILL ALIVE."
TAKAYUKI IS THE ONE...
...WHO CAME UP WITH THIS STUPID PLAN.

AND THAT'S WHY I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO PROPERLY MOURN HIS DEATH...
THAT...
...IDIOT SON OF MINE...
...
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I SAW THE OLD MAN CRY.
...

WEIRD HAIRDO.
TUG

HEY! WHO YOU CALLIN' STUPID? AND "CAT"?
YOU STUPID PERVERT CAT!!
LOOK WHO'S TALKING!
BITCH.
FWUMP

THAT'S NOT TRUE...
THIS IS WHY SEIJURO BROKE OFF HIS ENGAGEMENT WITH YOU!
...HEAD OF THE NEKOZANE FAMILY.

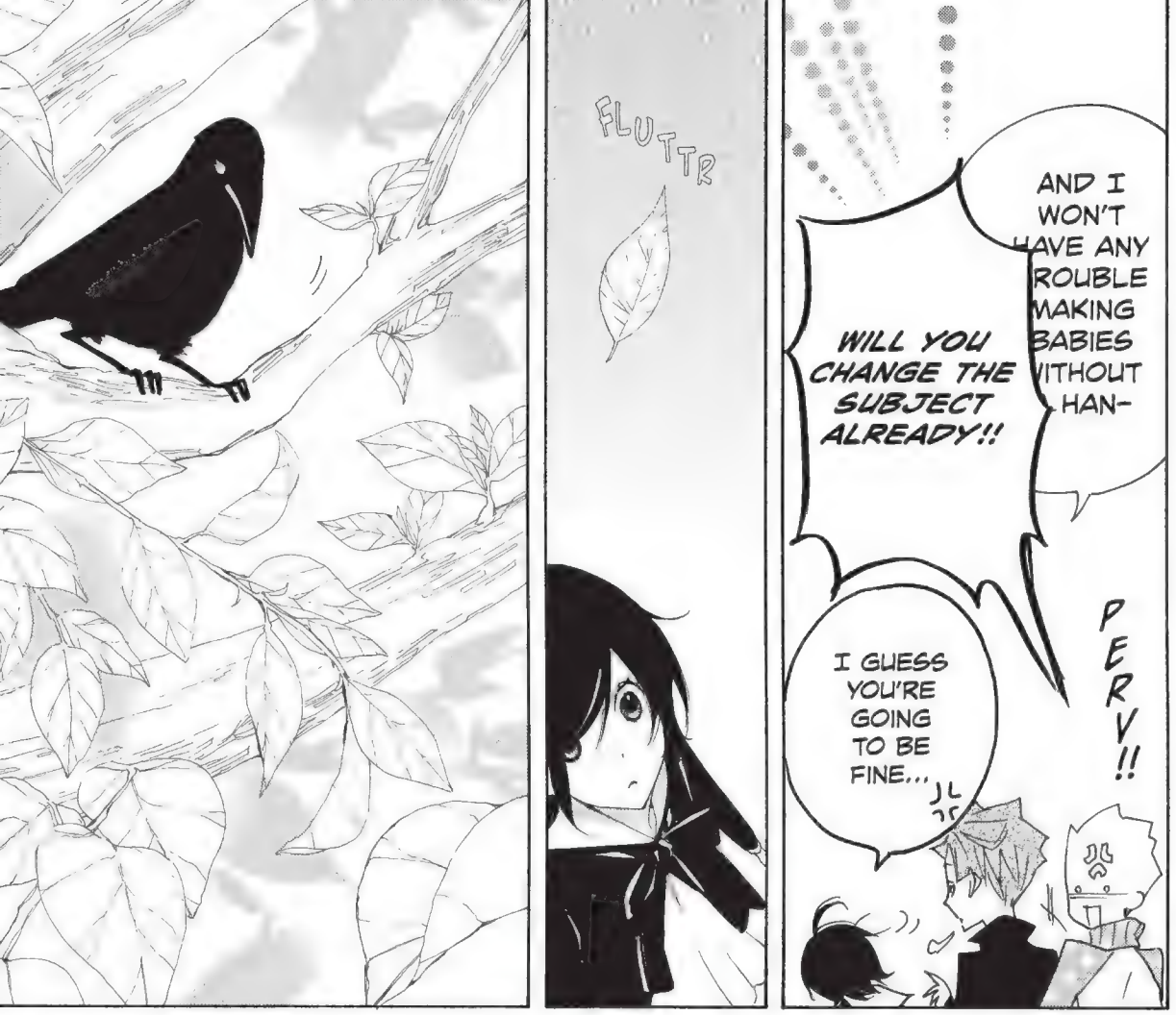
BUT...
...THAT REALLY WAS YUKI...

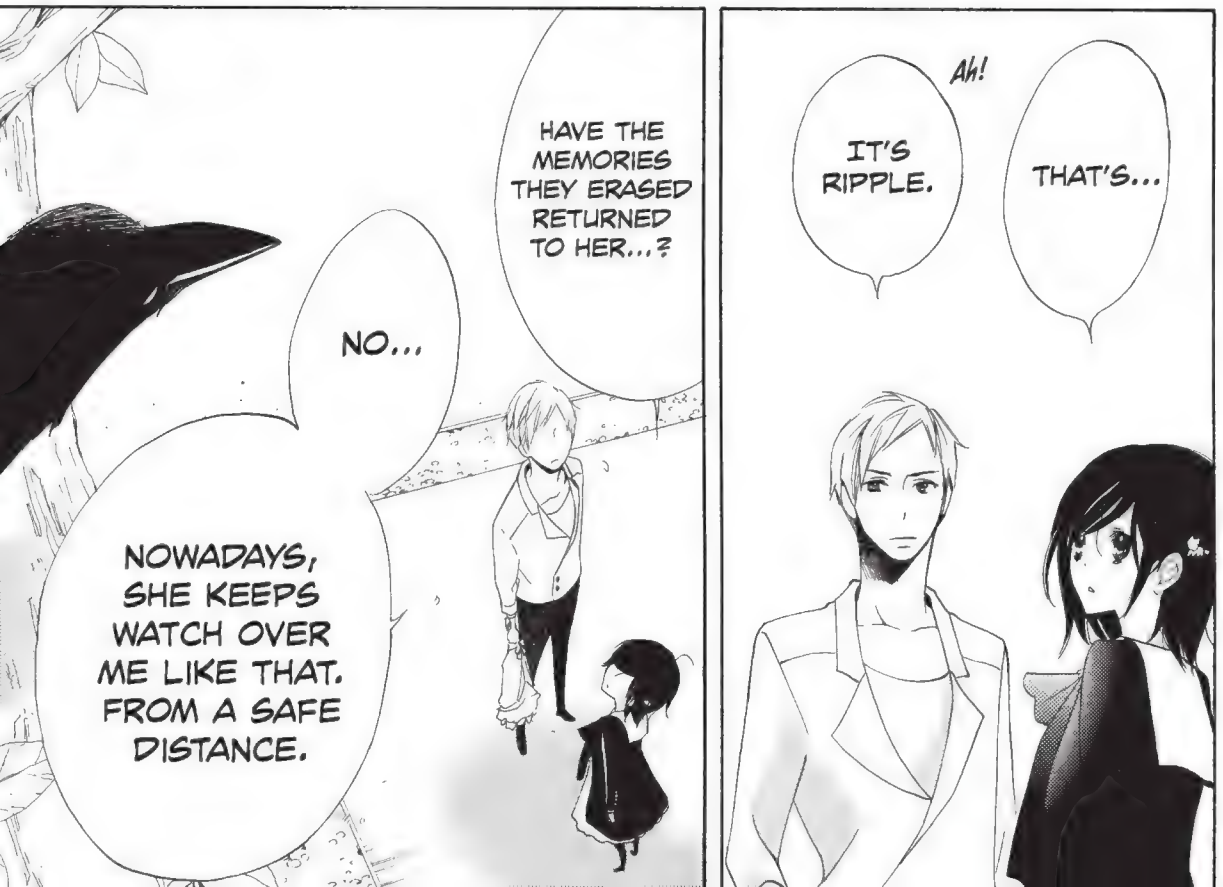
WEIRD HAIRDO.
I CALLED OFF THE ENGAGEMENT WITH MISTRESS TAKAMICHI TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL THAT HAPPENED BETWEEN OUR FAMILIES. NOT BECAUSE SHE IS IN ANY WAY A BITCH.
LET GO OF HER, MIKA! NOW!
Shocking!
AND HE SAID "BITCH" TOO...
I HEARD IT.
HEAD OF THE SHIRATORI FAMILY...

IF YOU NEED AN HEIR, YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME TO MY SEED.
SEIJURO IS THE FAMILY HEAD OF THE SHIRATORI CLAN NOW. HE CAN'T MARRY INTO THE HACHIOJI FAMILY ANYMORE ANYWAY...
SPEAKING OF WHICH ...
YOU HAVEN'T FOUND YOURSELF A NEW FIANCÉ YET, HAVE YOU?
THOK
Are you out of your mind?!
HYUUU
HYUUU
JUST MAKE SURE TO HAVE *TWO* KIDS. ONE FOR MY FAMILY AND ONE FOR YOURS.

YOU CAN HAVE SEIJURO'S KID WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, IF YOU WANT.
...ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITHOUT YOUR RIGHT HAND?
WHOK
THOK
WHAT...
MIKA...

CAN YOU HUNT WITHOUT IT?
I HAVE A RIGHT HAND.
AND I WON'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE MAKING BABIES WITHOUT A HAN-
GR
IN
...
I SEE.

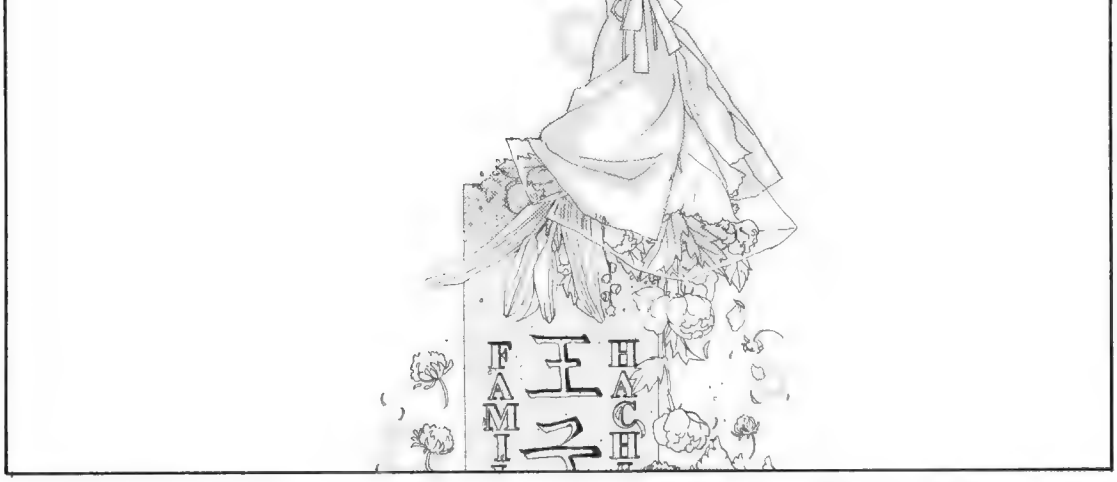

FLUTTR
I GUESS YOU'RE GOING TO BE FINE...
WILL YOU CHANGE THE SUBJECT ALREADY!!
AND I WON'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE MAKING BABIES WITHOUT HAN-
PERV!!

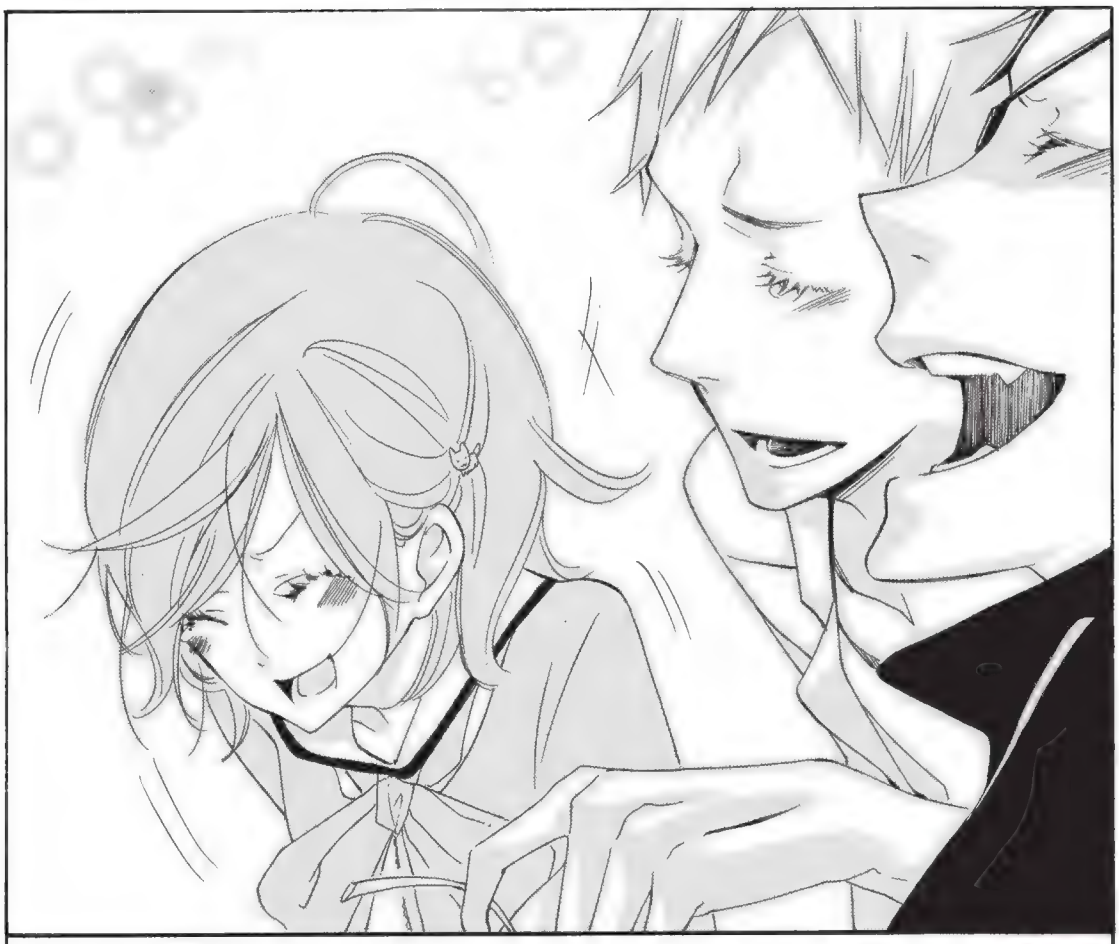

HAVE THE MEMORIES THEY ERASED RETURNED TO HER...?
NO...
NOWADAYS, SHE KEEPS WATCH OVER ME LIKE THAT. FROM A SAFE DISTANCE.
Ah!
IT'S RIPPLE.
THAT'S...

MAYBE IT'S A WAY FOR HER TO REMEMBER...
EVEN IF IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO PROTECT HER FROM KANKURO ...
...I CAN'T BELIEVE MY STUPID FATHER TAMPERED WITH HER MEMORY!
YOU'RE MISTAKEN, MISTRESS TAKAMICHI.
RIPPLE ASKED HIM TO DO IT.
MASTER KANKURO IS AFTER MASTER MIKA'S LIFE!

THAT MAY BE, BUT...
...
HE ORDERED ME TO GET RID OF YOU TOO...
NOW GO!
RIPPLE ...
...ISN'T IT GOING TO CAUSE TROUBLE FOR YOU TO DISOBEY HIS ORDERS?
MY TRUE MASTER IS SEIJURO.

I WISH TO REMAIN BY HIS SIDE...
...EVEN IF IT MEANS LOSING MY MEMORY.
THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID.
I'M NOT TOO FOND OF HER MYSELF...
BUT I RESPECT...
...HER FEELINGS FOR HER MASTER.

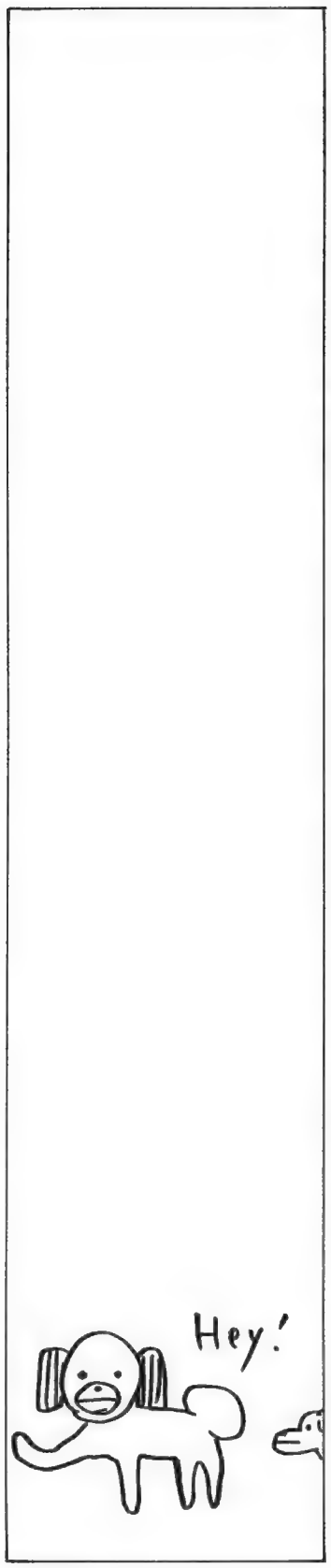

王子
HACHI
FAMI



WE'RE GOING TO REBUILD EVERYTHING FROM SCRATCH...
...
WITHIN OUR GENERATION.

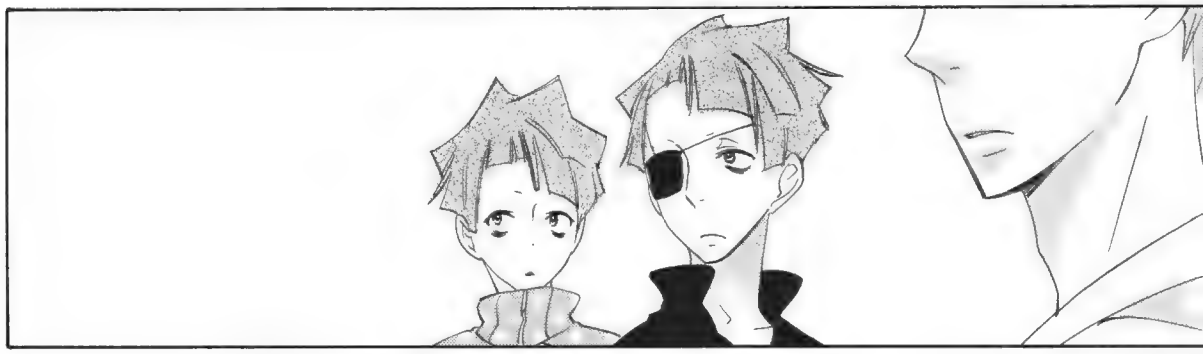
SO THAT NO ONE...
...EVER MAKES THE SAME MISTAKE.

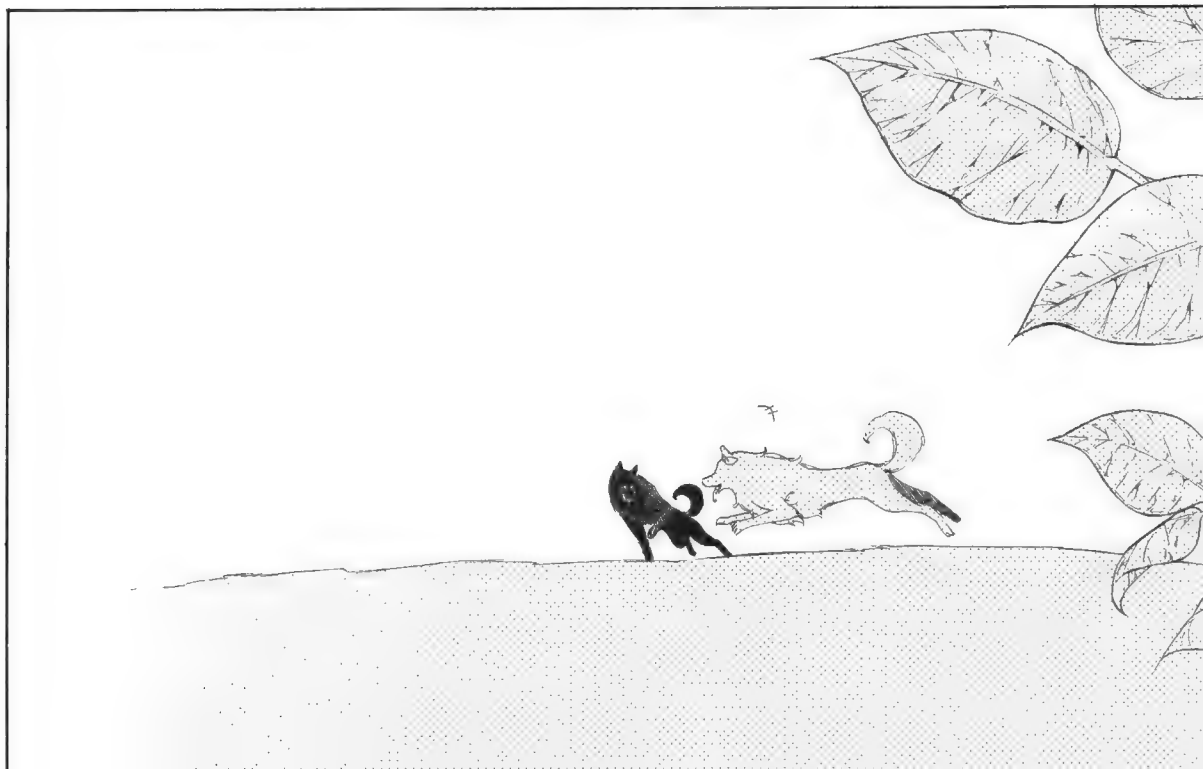
WAIT A MINUTE!
THE WHOLE IDEA WAS TO KEEP THEM CLOSE SO WE COULD KEEP AN EYE ON THEM... BECAUSE THEY'RE PART HUMAN!
...THE ONES WE WERE MEANT TO HUNT DOWN.
THE REASON THIS ALL STARTED IS BECAUSE WE GOT CHUMMY WITH...
...
THIS MIGHT NOT HAVE HAPPENED IF WE HAD NEVER INSTITUTED THE JIU JIU SYSTEM TO BEGIN WITH...
RIGHT...
I'M KIDDING.
I'M SORRY...
NO! IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, WHITE...
BUT THEN YOU GUYS STARTED TAKING FULL-BLOODED DEMONS AND MONSTERS WHO WEREN'T PART HUMAN AND TURNING THEM INTO YOUR SERVANTS...
!!
YAWN


Hey!

I DON'T HAVE ANY REGRETS ABOUT HAVING WHITE AS MY JIU JIU.

...WHERE ARE YOUR POOCHES?
BY THE WAY...





HEY...! SNOW! NIGHT!
THEY DIDN'T EVEN SAY HI TO ME! STUPID MUTTS...
I HAVEN'T SEEN THEM IN FOREVER EITHER.
We're going home!
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THEM...?
THE ONLY DAMAGE SNOW DID WAS TO ME AND THE SHIRATORI HOUSE...
SO THEY'RE ALLOWING ME TO KEEP THEM— AS LONG AS THEY DON'T TAKE OFF THEIR SEALS.
HMPH. I WARNED YOU... BUT HE STILL TOOK THE EARRINGS OFF!
ALL YOU SAID WAS, "DON'T... THINK OF THOSE TWO AS ORDINARY DOGS." WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO UNDERSTAND FROM THAT?!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO TAKE HIS EARRINGS OFF!
NO... YOU... DID... NOT!
Huh?

Good boy, good boy.

OKAY THEN...
...
...

RACE YOU TWO BACK HOME!
...
HAS MISTRESS TAKAMICHI NOTICED...?
I DON'T THINK SHE WILL. NOT FOR THE NEXT COUPLE OF YEARS AT LEAST.

MAYBE NEVER.
Good boy, good boy.

PLEASE DON'T EMBARRASS ME BY CAUSING TROUBLE!
YOU WEREN'T UP TO ANY MISCHIEF WHILE I WAS AWAY, WERE YOU?
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I LAST SAW YOU.
HAVE YOU GROWN A LITTLE, SNOW?
WHITE SEEMS TO HAVE A TIGHT LEASH ON MIKA.
Serves him right!
I HOPE... SEIJURO AND RIPPLE'S RELATIONSHIP GETS BACK TO NORMAL...
...
MAYBE I SHOULD CUT MY HAIR?

I SAW YUKI.
WELL, HE TURNED OUT TO BE WHITE...
...SNOW?
YOU SAVED ME, DIDN'T YOU...
I DON'T REMEMBER...
...HOW I SURVIVED AFTER THAT...

ASLEEP ALREADY?
HEY! IT'S BEEN FIVE MONTHS SINCE WE'VE SEEN EACH OTHER, YOU KNOW...
WHY DIDN'T YOU WAKE ME UP, NIGHT?!
WE'RE GONNA BE LATE!
ACTUALLY, WE'RE ALREADY LATE!
HERE!
CHANGE!

Phew...
This is the final volume of *Jiu Jiu*!
It took a while for volume 5 to come out, but thank you so much for waiting and supporting me all this time!
It's not like I was taking a break from my work, you know!

December, 2008.
Hana-to-Yume Magazine, Issue 2
Chapter 1 One-Shot.

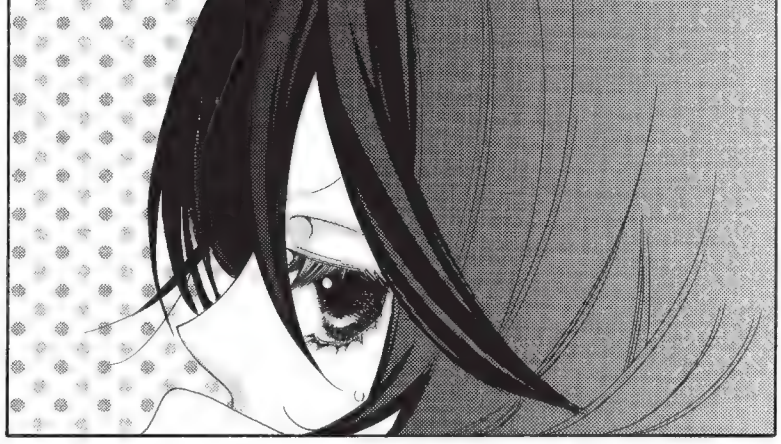
March...and so on, 2009.
Hana-to-Yume Magazine Issues 8-11
Chapters 2-5 continuously.

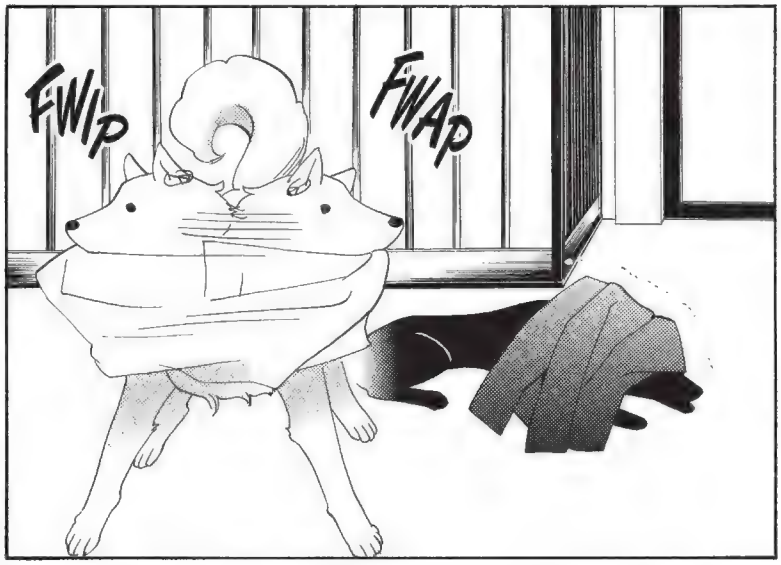
May...and so on, 2009.
Hana-to-Yume Magazine Issues V15-17, 19-21
Chapters 6-11 continuously.

December, 2009.
Series moved to *The-Hana-to-Yume*. (A bimonthly magazine).
February 1st to December 1st Issues
Chapters 12-17.

Series moved to *The-Hana-to-Yume Seasonal Magazine*. (It comes out once every three months)
May 1st, 2011-
August 1st, 2012
Chapters 18-23.

...so, I was working on the series at designated times!





ARE YOU SERIOUS?
RIIP

WALK 23: GOODBYE, HELLO

HEY, TAKAMICHI...

THE REASON MY FRONT PAWS TURNED INTO ARMS...

...IS SO THAT I COULD HOLD YOU.

IT HAPPENED SO SUDDENLY ...
...AND SO NATURALLY.. AS IF IN A DREAM.
NO, NO, NO, NO!
SNOW! NIGHT?! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR WORDS?!

SHUPP
SHLOOP
I'M OFF TO SCHOOL!

WA—AH!
Wait up!! Wait up!!
Just kidding! It was all a practical joke!
I BET THAT'S WHAT'LL HAPPEN.
Sorry, Mistress Takamichi!!
PEEK
SHF

MUSSED UP
...
Well...
Hey! They didn't change.
YOU'RE STILL HERE?! You'll be late!
WOOF
WOOF
MISTRESS TAKAMICHI !!
WOOF
WOOF
HOW WAS YOUR DAY?
...
SHLOOP...
THEY MUST HAVE CHANGED BACK BY NOW THOUGH...
HURRAY—! WALK WALK—!
We're going to the river, aren't we?
The river?
Where are we going ?!
OKAY! WE'RE GONNA GO FOR A LO-O-NG WALK!!

BBLL
BBLL
WOOF
WOOF
...
OOPS,
I
SLIPPED!
BRRBL
BRRBL
!!
OOPS,
I SLIPPED!
BRRBL
BBBL
GRAB
THE
PERFECT
PLAN!

MISTRESS TAKAMICHI?!
GLO
DRIP
OM...
DRIP
WHY ARE YOU SOAKING WET?!
...
YOU BETTER TAKE A HOT BATH TO WARM UP!!
FWUMF

SKWK
DRIP
SO...
C-C-
COLD.
LICK
LICK
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP

LICK
I DON'T WANT YOU TO TOUCH ME EITHER!
LICK
PFEH...
WEAKLINGS.
Report
May, XX Year
DON'T TOUCH ME.
SHF
LICK
LICK
LICK
HMM?
ARE YOU STARTING TO LOSE HUNTING WORK?
...

I'M AMBI-DEX-TROUS!
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE LEFT HANDED, MIKA.
KRIK

...
LET ME MAKE SOMETHING PERFECTLY CLEAR...
WHO LET THESE CATS INTO THE HOUSE ANYWAY!!
Quit having a conversation on my stomach!!
YOU'RE THE CAT.
RAISING A HAND
OH, I'M ONLY GOOD AT DRAWING.
YOU OUGHT TO SIGN HIS PAPERS FOR HIM, WHITE.
HERE, MISTRESS TAKAMICHI... HAVE SOME TEA.
You're getting
on my nerves!
WILL YOU CUT IT OUT!!

...I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THOSE DOGS.
LIAR!
YOU KNEW THAT SNOW COULD GET REALLY BIG!
HUH?!
WHY WOULD I KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT THEM JUST BECAUSE I KNEW THAT?!
Idiot!!
Oh!
MAYBE HE'LL TURN BACK IF HE GETS BIG AGAIN...
GRAB
STOP IT.
YOU'LL BREAK THE RULES IF YOU DO THAT!
USE YOUR HEAD, WILL YOU?!
...

I HAVE ...
...A HUNCH ABOUT SNOW...
NIGHT TOLD ME ABOUT IT.
HE COULDN'T STAND BEING AROUND ME ANYMORE THE WAY THINGS WERE.
SO HE WISHED HIMSELF INTO BEING... AN ORDINARY DOG.
I GET IT.
BUT...

...WHAT ABOUT NIGHT?
WHY HAS *HE* TURNED INTO A DOG TOO?
YOU REALLY WANT ME TO SPELL THIS OUT FOR YOU...?
WHY DON'T YOU JUST LET THEM LOOSE IN A RICE PADDY OR SOMETHING...?
MAYBE THAT WOULD DO THE TRICK?

Don't look at you like what?
Don't look at me like that!
DID YOU TALK TO SEIJURO ABOUT THIS?!
COURSE NOT!
HMM.
IS THAT SO ...?
STARE ...
RSSTL

SHWP
OX DEMON
GROARR
AAH
AAH
WHOA! THEY LOOK LIKE THEY'RE HAVING A LOT OF FUN.
HE'S TRAVELING AROUND SHIKOKU AT THE MOMENT— WITH RIPPLE!
WOW! I BARELY RECOGNIZE HIM!
BY THE WAY...

MIKA IS THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS ABOUT SNOW AND NIGHT! BESIDES, HE'S GOT A LOT OF FREE TIME ON HIS HANDS...
...
...YOU GOT IN TOUCH WITH SEIJURO BEFORE MIKA, DIDN'T YOU?
TOSS
TOSS

IS SHE GONNA BE...
...ALL RIGHT?

Are you all right? Your face looks red.
OH!
TAKA-MICHI.

TAKAMICHI HASN'T BEEN HERSELF LATELY...
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO SNOW AND NIGHT?
SHE HASN'T.
DON'T KNOW.
MERU HASN'T BEEN COMING TO SCHOOL FOR A WHILE EITHER...
IT'S GETTING LONELY AROUND HERE...
YEP.
IT IS.
M...
MI...

...LAAAADY!!
MIIIIIII...
SKR
EEK
HOW COULD I EVER FORGET YOU?
MILADY ...!!
...AFTER NEGLECTING ME FOR SO LONG!
GRMBL
GRMBL
YOU'VE GOT A NERVE SHOWING YOUR FACE AROUND HERE...
LILY...

In the beginning,
I was working on this series alongside my series *Sarashi-Asobi*.

During vol. 5, I was working on this series alongside *Roppan!!*.

I complained a lot, but I had so much fun thanks to the support of all my readers! I'm actually working on this at the same time as *Roppan!!*.

I'm worried you'll be unsatisfied with a lot of parts because I just couldn't spend enough time on vol. 5....
But please, give me a smile and forgive me!

Well then...
Thank you very, very much for following *Jiu Jiu* all the way to the end!

I know it sounds selfish, but I'd be overjoyed if you could continue to support me by reading *Roppan!!*.

With lots of love...

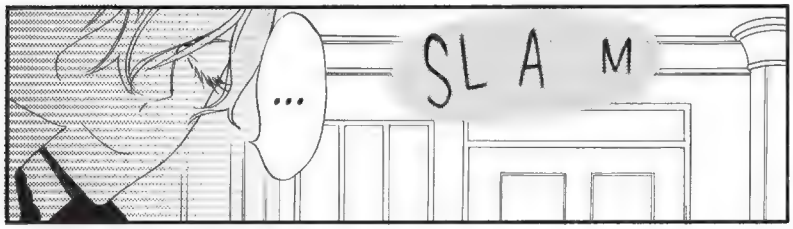
Touya Tobina

POP
TAKA-MICHI...
DRIBBLE
I DROOL
CHOMP☆
Oh!
...ru...
ME...
MERU HASN'T BEEN COMING TO SCHOOL FOR A WHILE EITHER...
MERU, YOU'VE SHRUNK AGAIN...
YOU OUGHT TO DISCIPLINE YOUR HOUNDS.
SO THAT'S WHY YOU HAVEN'T BEEN GOING TO SCHOOL...
Exactly.
NOW LET ME SUCK YOUR BLOOD— AND TURN ME BACK INTO MY TRUE FORM!

HERE. LICK.
SNICK
DON'T YOU WANT TO TURN BACK INTO YOUR REGULAR SELVES?!
Whhnn...
Whhnn...
GO AHEAD.
Whhnn...
LICK IT!!
NOW!!
Whhnn...

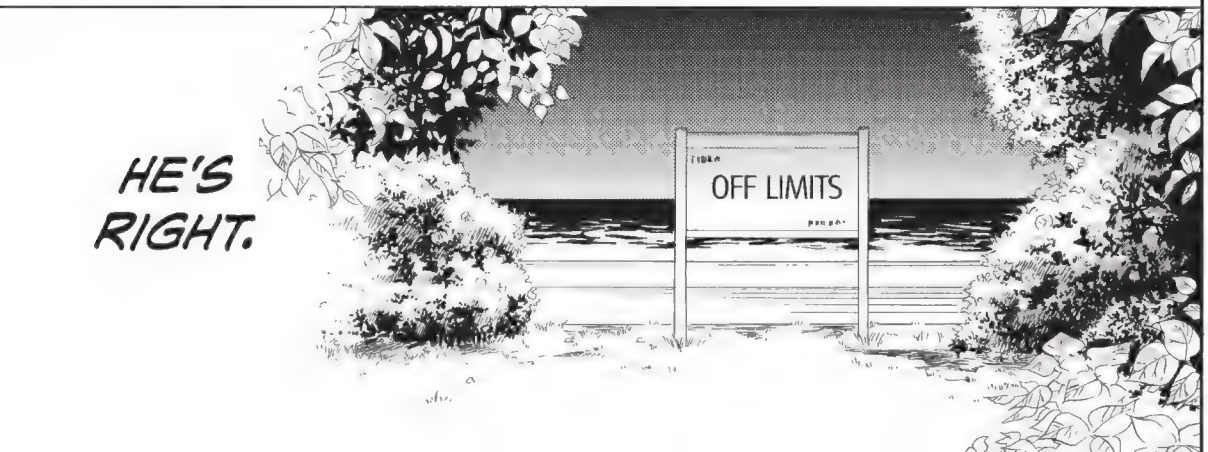
CALM DOWN, TAKAMICHI.
DRINKING YOUR BLOOD ISN'T GOING TO...
...HAVE AN EFFECT ON THOSE DOGS.
...
Whinn
Whinn
...
THEY WON'T TURN BACK! THEY'RE JUST ORDINARY DOGS NOW!
I see.

WEREN'T THEY ALWAYS ANNOYING YOU IN THEIR HUMAN FORM?
BUT IN YOUR HEART OF HEARTS ...
...DO YOU REALLY WANT THEM TO TURN BACK?
BE-SIDES ...
NOW THEY DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT MISTAKING YOUR LOVE FOR THEM AS THEIR MISTRESS FOR ROMANTIC LOVE.
IT'S BETTER THIS WAY, ISN'T IT?
MAYBE THIS IS THE NATURAL COURSE OF THINGS FOR THEM. WHAT IF THEY'VE FINALLY TRANSFORMED INTO THEIR TRUE FORMS, INTO WHAT THEY WERE ALWAYS MEANT TO BE?!
...BEING HALF-HUMAN, HALF-DEMON ISN'T NATURAL.

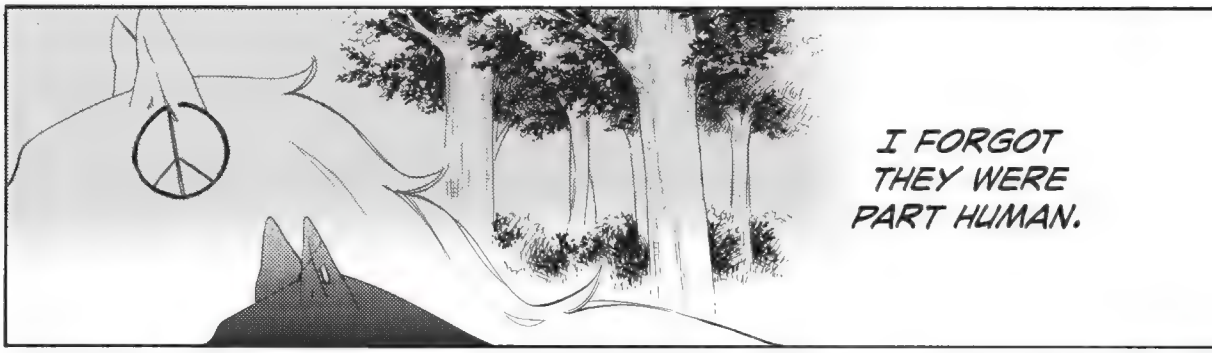


THEIR... TRUE FORMS?

?


HE'S RIGHT.
OFF LIMITS

IN THE BEGINNING, SNOW AND NIGHT WERE JUST A NUISANCE.


I FORGOT THEY WERE PART HUMAN.

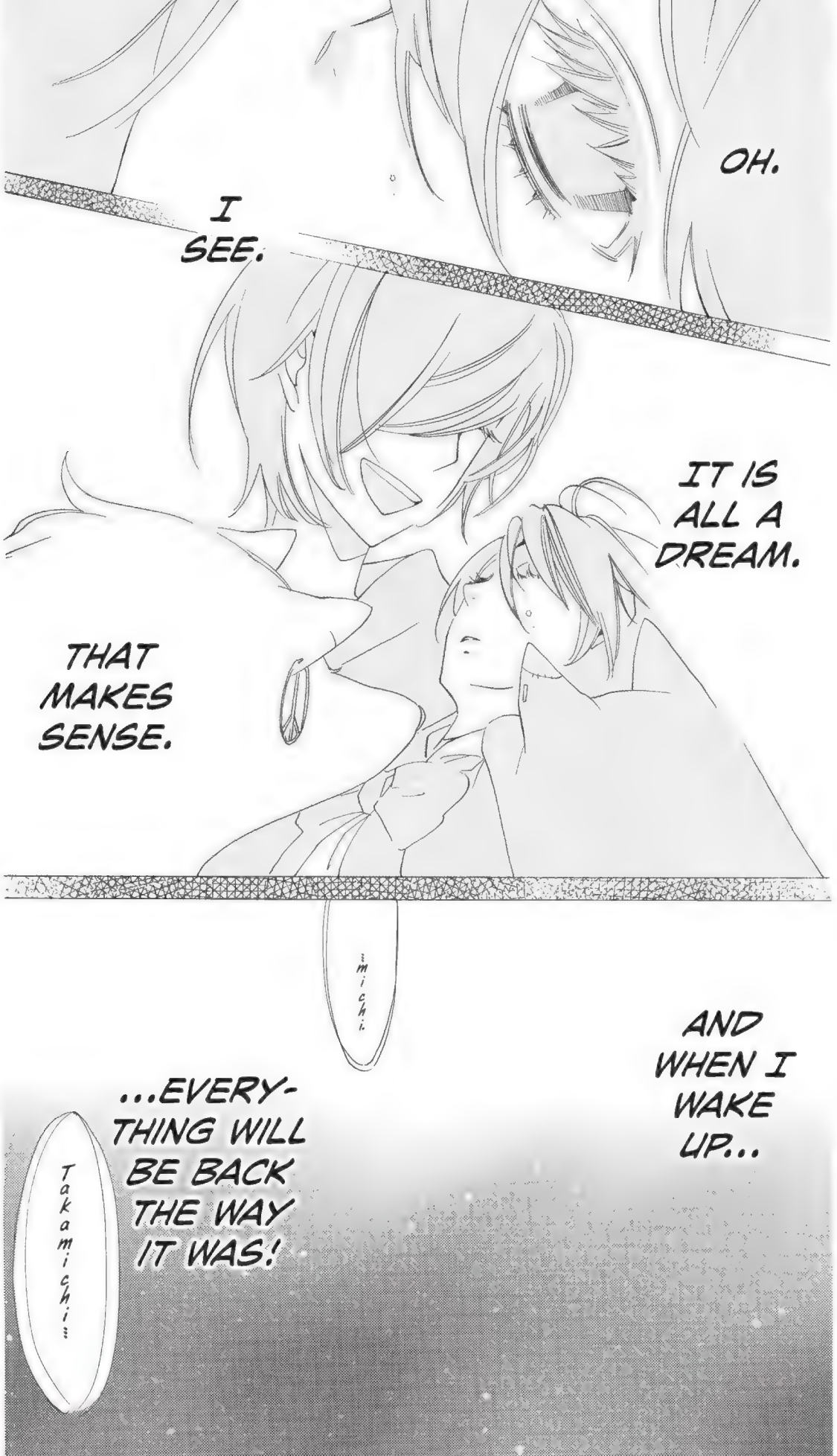
IN THOSE DAYS EVERYTHING SUPERNATURAL...

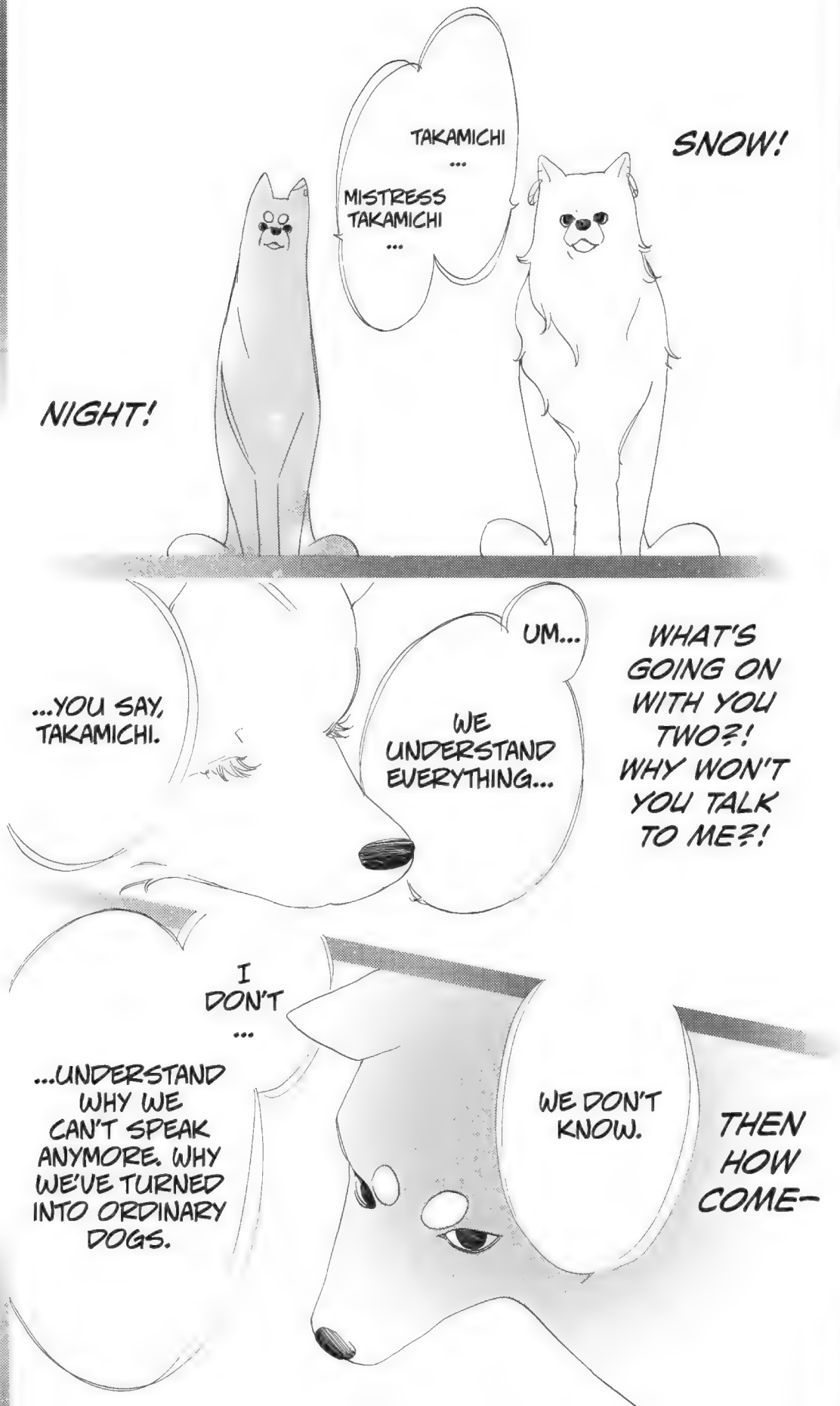
...JUST SEEMED NORMAL TO ME.
THEIR TRUE FORMS ...

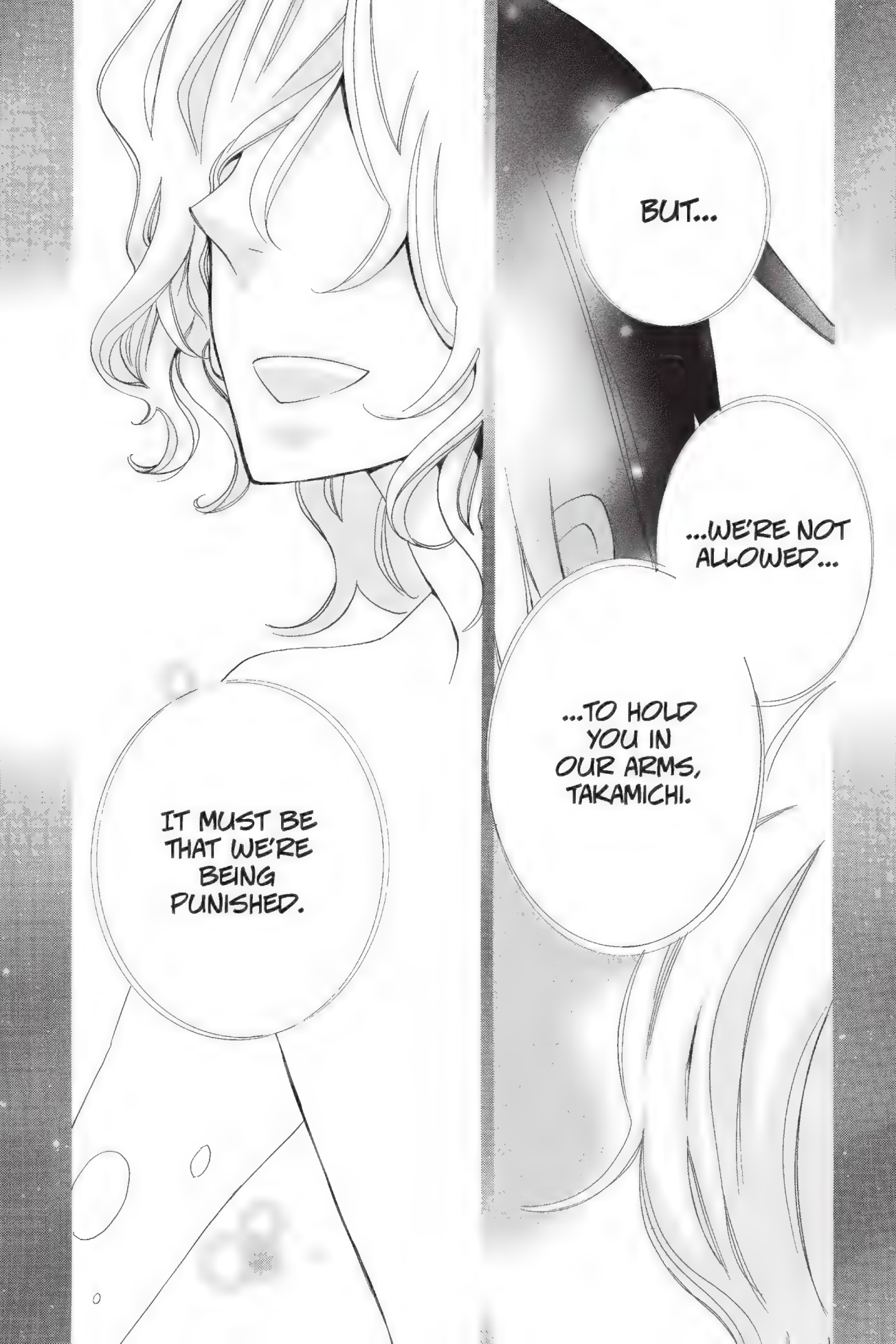
WHAT IS THEIR TRUE FORM ANYWAY?!
RSTLL
DOES THAT MEAN... EVERYTHING WE'VE BEEN THROUGH TOGETHER WASN'T... TRUE?
WERE ALL THOSE DAYS I SPENT WITH SNOW AND NIGHT JUST AN ILLUSION?
IF IT WAS AN ILLUSION...
...WAS I...
KLN
K K

...INSIDE A VERY LONG DREAM?

HEY, MICHI!
DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN AT A TIME LIKE THIS. HA HA...
YUKI ...?


OH.
I SEE.
IT IS ALL A DREAM.
THAT MAKES SENSE.
imichi
AND WHEN I WAKE UP...
...EVERY-THING WILL BE BACK THE WAY IT WAS!
Takamichi


NIGHT!
TAKAMICHI ...
MISTRESS TAKAMICHI ...
SNOW!
...YOU SAY, TAKAMICHI.
UM...
WE UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING...
WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOU TWO?! WHY WON'T YOU TALK TO ME?!
I DON'T ...
...UNDERSTAND WHY WE CAN'T SPEAK ANYMORE. WHY WE'VE TURNED INTO ORDINARY DOGS.
WE DON'T KNOW.
THEN HOW COME-


BUT...
...WE'RE NOT ALLOWED...
...TO HOLD YOU IN OUR ARMS, TAKAMICHI.
IT MUST BE THAT WE'RE BEING PUNISHED.

FOR FALLING IN LOVE WITH YOU.

BUT DON'T FEEL SAD ABOUT IT, TAKAMICHI.
EVEN IF WE CAN'T SPEAK...
EVEN IF WE ARE ORDINARY DOGS...
...WE'LL CONTINUE TO PROTECT YOU...
... FOR-EVER.

WE'LL ALWAYS BE TOGETHER, TAKAMICHI.
OH...

YAY
YAY
DO YOU HAVE A COLD?
YOU'VE BEEN SO PALE ALL DAY.
ARE YOU OKAY, TAKAMICHI?
OR A FEVER?
THAT'S THE SAME THING, ISN'T IT?
NO, IT'S NOT.
Who cares as long as she's all right!

THE ONE WHO'S BEING PUNISHED IS...

...
YOU...
TAKAMICHI ...
...CAME HOME DRENCHED... AND WENT RIGHT TO SLEEP WITHOUT DRYING OFF AND WARMING UP, DIDN'T YOU?
NO WONDER YOU GOT SICK.
FOR GOD'S SAKE.
YOU HAD US ALL WORRIED...
Whhh——...
Whh——nn

...
I'M NOT SAD...

I'M NOT...
...ALONE ANYMORE.
YOU PULLED ME TO MY FEET.
AND I HAD NO IDEA I HAD MADE SO MANY FRIENDS.
HEY...
I'M NOT SAD.
NO MATTER WHAT FORM YOU'RE IN, YOU'LL ALWAYS BE YOURSELVES, RIGHT?

SNOW
...
NIGHT
...

WE'LL ALWAYS BE TOGETHER.

HUH?!
...
TAKING A WALK.
!!
!!
WHAT?
LOOK, I'M JUST TAKING A WALK...
!!!

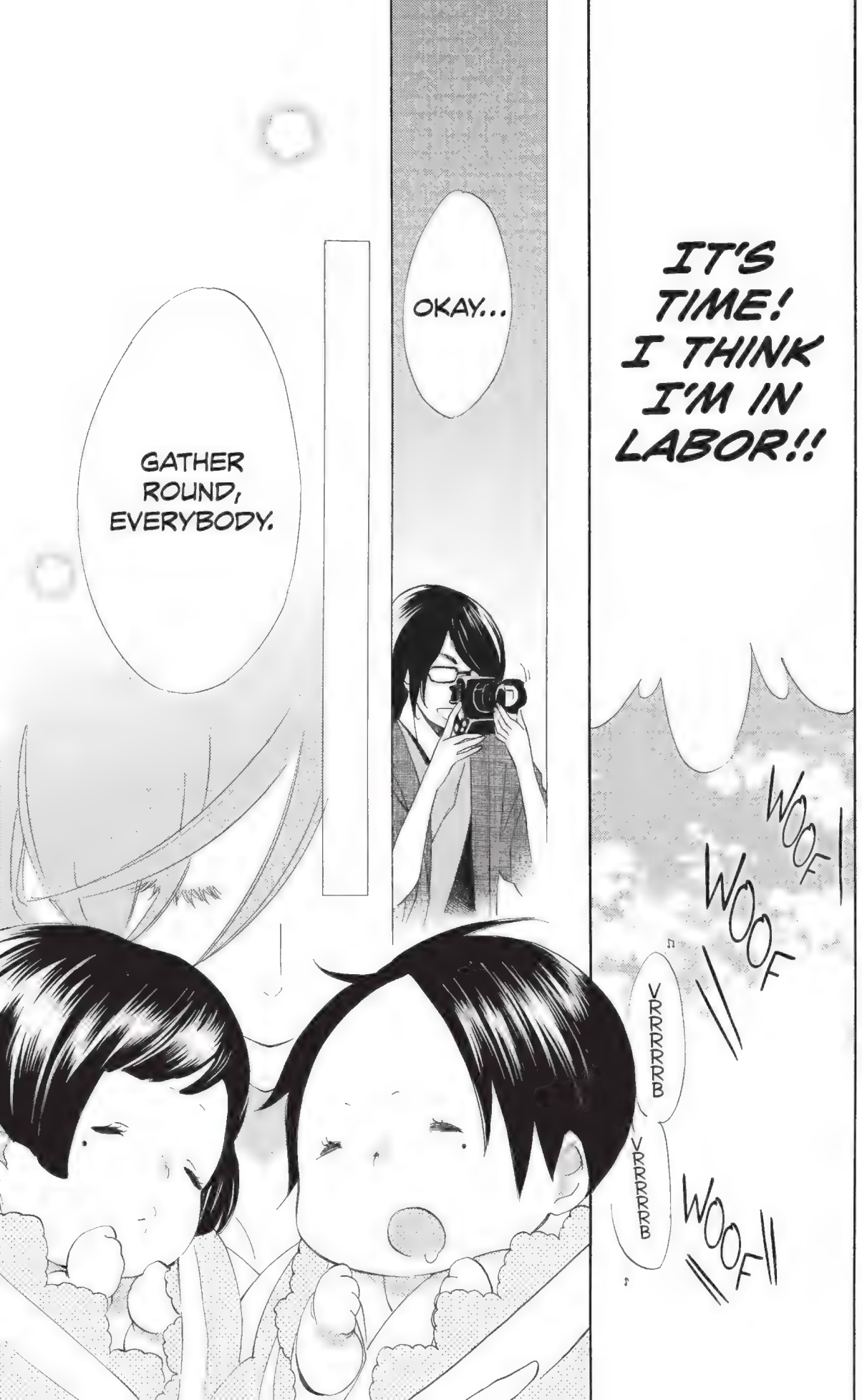
SHUT UP! GET BACK TO WORK!
BIP
SHEESH...
HE WORRIES ABOUT ME TOO MUCH! WHY DOES HE HAVE TO CALL EVERY HALF HOUR?!
SNOW ...
NIGHT ...
LET'S TAKE A BREAK!
OOMPH.
Phew!
...

WHNN...
WHNN...
MAMA!
MAMA!
WHNN...
WHNN...

IT'S BEEN SEVEN YEARS SINCE YOU CAME TO ME...
...SNOW, NIGHT...
THOSE DAYS WERE LIKE A DREAM...
THEY PASSED BY SO FAST...
AND I CHERISH THEM MORE THAN ANYTHING...

THIS'LL BE THE SECOND TIME I TAKE CARE OF BABIES.

!
BOW
WOOF
WOOF
WOW!


IT'S TIME! I THINK I'M IN LABOR!!
OKAY...
GATHER ROUND, EVERYBODY.
WOOF
WOOF
VRRRRRRB
VRRRRRRB
WOOF

OKAY... CHEESE!
I SAID, MOVE CLOSER.
Are you stupid or what?!
DON'T GET SO EXCITED, OLD MAN!
AND TURN THE CAMERA SIDEWAYS!!
Why are you holding it like that?!
YOU THERE! MOVE CLOSER TOGETHER!
Come on, come on!
ARF
KLK
!
You idiot...
I'M HO-OME!

MISTRESS TAKAMICHI...
THE REASON OUR FRONT PAWS TURNED INTO ARMS...
HEY...
...TAKAMICHI.
...IS SO THAT...

...WE COULD
PROTECT YOU
AND THOSE
WHO ARE
PRECIOUS
TO YOU.

Thanks

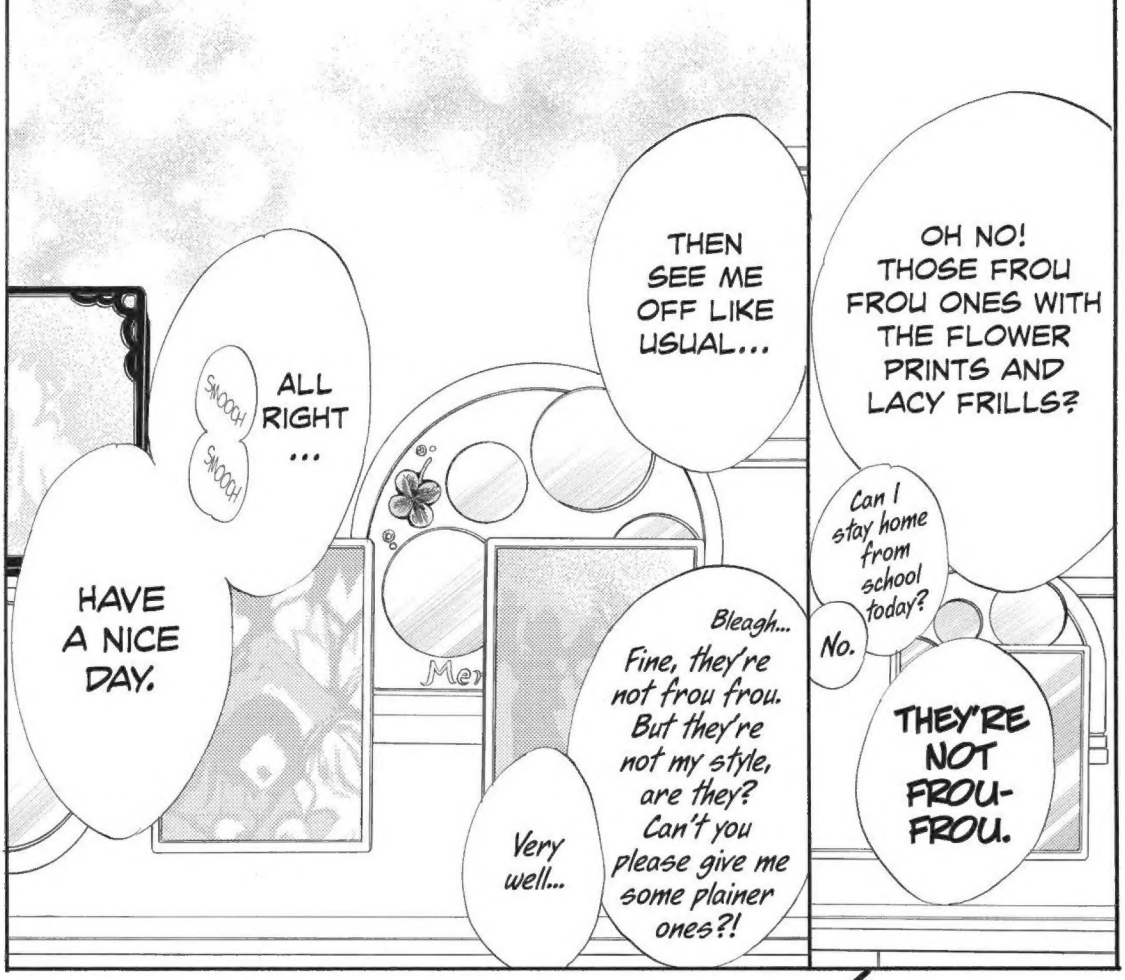
Haruka Hodaka-sama
Mizuho Komata-sama
Nana Ginna-sama
Mirai Yamada-sama
Seico-sama
Pochi Takahashi-sama
Subaru Akino-sama
Hiitan-sama
Kino Hiragi-sama
Ryo Kikitsu-sama

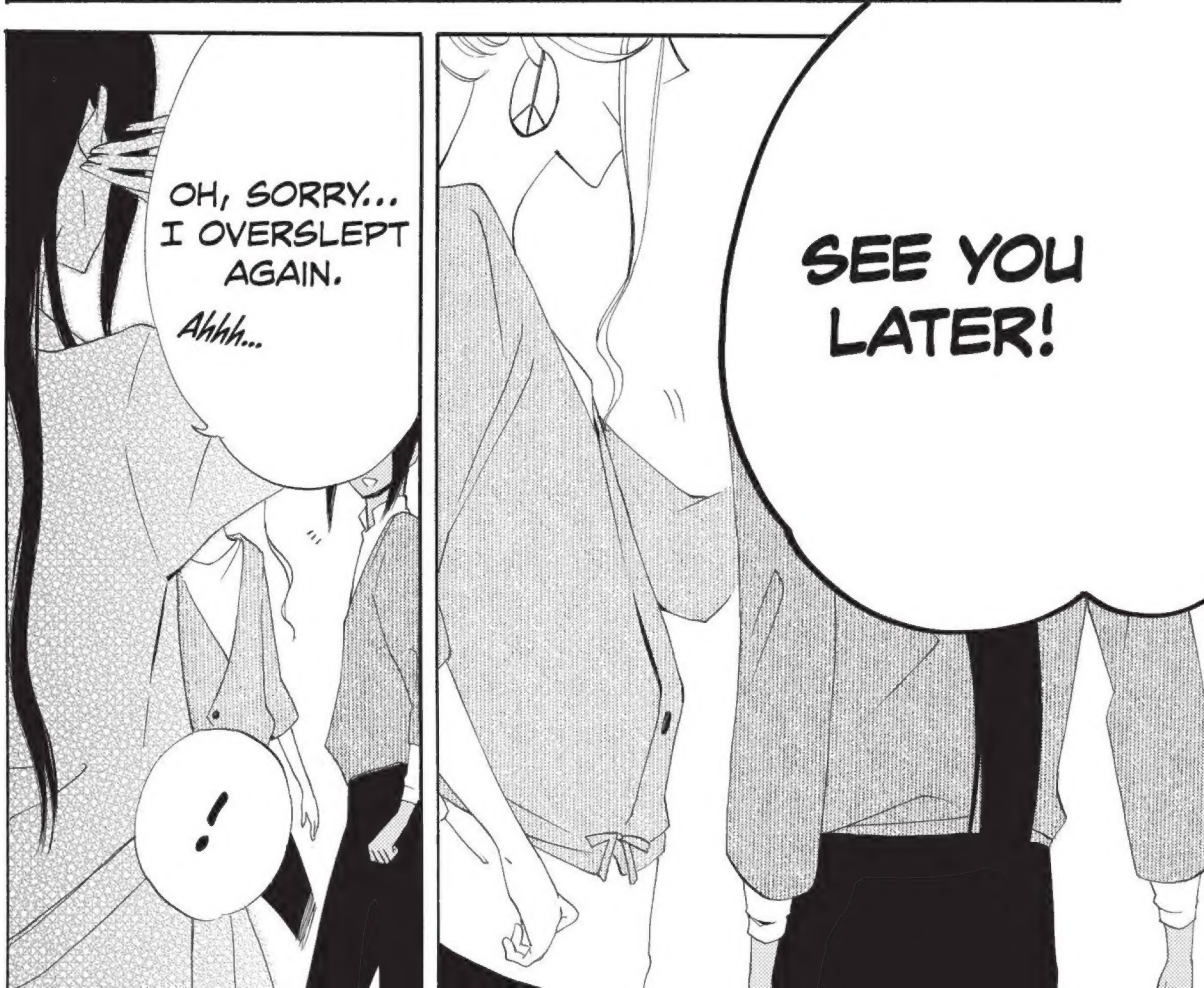
Takeda-sama
Sakuma-sama
Ishigaki-sama
Nagashima-sama
Takemura-sama
Noro-sama

Everybody Involved
Nakamura Family

And most of all
to all of you
for reading this!

Sigh...
I don't wanna go.
I PUT TISSUES AND A HANDKERCHIEF INSIDE TOO.
!
I HAVE IT READY BY THE DOOR FOR YOU.
Hey !!
HAVE YOU SEEN MY SCHOOLBAG?


OH NO! THOSE FROU FROU ONES WITH THE FLOWER PRINTS AND LACY FRILLS?
Can I stay home from school today?
No.
THEY'RE NOT FROU-FROU.
THEN SEE ME OFF LIKE USUAL...
Bleagh... Fine, they're not frou frou. But they're not my style, are they? Can't you please give me some plainer ones?!
Very well...
ALL RIGHT ...
SMOOCH
SMOOCH
HAVE A NICE DAY.


SEE YOU LATER!
OH, SORRY... I OVERSLEPT AGAIN.
Ahhh...
!

GOOD MORNING, MISTRESS TAKAMICHI!
MORNING, TAKAMICHI!
Well, now that those rascals are gone... shall we go for a walk?
Great idea!
Hurray! Walk! Walk!

Touya Tobina is from Tokyo. Her birthday is May 23 and her blood type is O. In 2005, her series *Keppeki Shonen Kanzen Soubi* (Clean Freak Fully Equipped) won the grand prize in the 30th Hakusensha Athena Shinjin Taisho (Hakusensha Athena Newcomers Awards).

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